

THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,698

TUESDAY 25 AUGUST 1998

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56-PAGE LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT

24-PAGE BROADSHEET REVIEW

INSIDE: THE ONLY
OFFICIAL UCAS GUIDE
TO UNIVERSITY PLACES

The smugglers who
turn refugees into cash

ARTS, COMMENT, LISTINGS, HEALTH, MEDIA

Cook calls bluff on Lockerbie

By PAUL LASHMAR

THE TWO Libyans accused of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing can be tried in under Scottish law in the otherlands, the British and American governments have agreed.

Announcing the decision, the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, said that nearly 10 years on the families of the victims deserved to see the accused brought to trial, and the people of Libya to have international sanctions lifted.

"For years, Libya has promised that it would accept a court without jury, meeting in a third country. That way forward is now open to them. It is a way forward that holds out the prospect of lifting the hardship of sanctions on the people of Libya - and ending the long wait for justice of the relatives of those who were murdered," Mr Cook said.

Families of the victims welcomed the decision. Jim Swire, whose 23-year-old daughter, Flora, died on Pan Am Flight 103, was "euphoric". He said: "Anyone in their right mind would welcome this decision."

Mr Swire, spokesman for the UK Families Flight 103 group, has spearheaded attempts to find a compromise so a trial can take place. "This is something that our group have been working for six years for."

He said that the Anglo-American agreement to allow the trial to take place in the Netherlands was such a big "concession"

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Why the truth may never be known, page 6
Leading article, Review, page 3

that he felt "compromise could be achieved with Libya over residual differences".

Until recently the British and American governments maintained the Libyans must be handed over for trial in Britain or the United States. The Libyan government may still not accept the proposal as it stipulates that the case will be presided over by a panel of Scottish judges.

The Libyans have said they require an international panel of judges. But have been prepared to accept that the panel would be headed by a senior Scottish judge.

Mr Cook said that the British American and Dutch plan was the product of long deliberation and the proposed arrangements were "not up for negotiation with any other party".

The Scottish law officer Lord Hardie, the Lord Advocate, said if the Libyans agreed the trial could take place next May. This depended on swift transfer by Libya of the two suspects, Ali Basset al-Megrahi and Amin Khalfia, the need then to extradite them from one part of the Netherlands to the Scottish

facility at the Law Courts in The Hague.

The US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, announcing the joint proposal in Washington, called for Libya to end its "10 years of evasion". She said: "We now challenge Libya to turn promises into deeds. The suspects should be surrendered for trial promptly."

The United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, yesterday welcomed the joint initiative and agreed to offer the UN's services in helping to arrange the transfer of the accused men to the Netherlands if Libya agrees to the conditions for them to be put on trial there.

"I am extremely pleased about today's announcement and hope that all sides will co-operate in order to reach an early resolution of this long-standing issue," Mr Annan said. Details of the proposed compromise were to be forwarded to Tripoli yesterday by Mr Annan on behalf of London and Washington.

It was expected, meanwhile, that the US and Britain would shortly submit the draft of a new resolution to the UN Security Council that will hold out the prospect of an end to international sanctions against Libya if it agrees to surrender the accused men for trial in the Netherlands.

Britain and America have been wrangling with the Libyan government since charges were laid against the two Libyans in 1991.



Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, with the Lord Advocate, Lord Hardie, yesterday

Kalpesh Lathigra

Football super league 'to start in 2000'

By NICK HARRIS

A EUROPEAN football super league could be announced within weeks after a meeting yesterday between the Continent's leading clubs and the company behind the league.

The proposed league, which is likely to include Manchester United and Arsenal, may start as soon as the summer of 2000.

Representatives from the Continent's largest clubs met in London with Media Partners, the Milan-based marketing and sports rights company planning the league, to discuss the proposals. The clubs have been promised huge financial rewards for joining the league, with some estimates being as high as £100m per club per year.

Media Partners reportedly gave assurances that it would run the league with the best interests of football in mind.

"Media Partners can confirm that a productive meeting took place today in London with a number of Europe's leading football clubs," said a statement issued by the company last night. "The well-attended meeting discussed further the proposals to develop the European Football League."

At the moment, European club competitions are run by Uefa, European football's governing body, which also controls the distribution of the revenue. Europe's larger clubs argued that they did not receive a large enough share of this revenue - about 5 per cent goes to the participating clubs - and asked Uefa to make changes to accommodate their views. Uefa have failed to do so, and Media Partners are now offering an alternative.

Super league, page 24

MPs recalled for anti-terror bill

PARLIAMENT IS to be recalled next week to pass new anti-terror laws aimed at taking IRA renegades off the streets in the wake of the Omagh bomb massacre.

The Prime Minister will fly from his holiday in France to Northern Ireland today to announce the Government's plans to rush through a short Bill to enable the prosecution of those accused of belonging to illegal organisations on the evidence of a single police officer without corroboration.

The Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, was expected to

By COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

make the formal decision last night to recall Parliament, and it is likely that MPs will be ordered to break short their holidays to return to the Commons on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Lords will also be summoned back to approve the legislation, which is likely to become an act by the end of the week. It will back up the promises made by Tony Blair and Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, that the known terrorists behind the

Real IRA, including a former quartermaster for the Provisional IRA, will be "taken off the streets". It will also help to answer those who criticised Mr Blair for his weekend remarks that it would be wrong in a democracy to send in SAS hit squads to deal with the known terrorists.

The move is intended to demonstrate the Government's commitment to crack down hard on the Real IRA, who were made pariahs in Ireland after admitting responsibility for the bombing. The timing will match the action by the Irish

Republic which is recalling the Dail to pass its own anti-terror legislation on Monday and Tuesday next week.

The swift action by both Governments will fulfil pledges made by Mr Blair and the Irish Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern, with whom he has a close working relationship, that the bombers behind the Omagh murders will be given no hiding place.

The arrest and trial of those believed by the security and intelligence services to have planned the bombing will also strengthen the position of

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, and Martin McGuinness, the Sinn Fein negotiator, who have condemned the Omagh bombing, but have come under pressure from the Loyalists to deliver on decommissioning.

Loyalist leaders have warned that Loyalist paramilitaries are growing impatient with the IRA in its various guises from making a full commitment to peace by abandoning the armed struggle. The Omagh bombing may have marked a watershed in movement towards lasting peace, but

it has also intensified the pressure on the Sinn Fein leaders to deliver.

Mr Blair will hold a series of talks with all the party leaders today to keep up the momentum for peace, and he will stay overnight in the Province, before flying south to the Republic tomorrow for more talks with Mr Ahern.

It is rare for the Commons to be recalled from recess. The last time was in 1995 for a two-day debate on the Bosnian crisis.

Omagh shops re-open, page 4

Yeltsin told to keep out of government

RUSSIA'S ACTING prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, was last night contemplating creating the country's first coalition government in post-Soviet history, raising fears in the West of the end of reforms.

On his first day at work after a shock political reshuffle, Mr Chernomyrdin met with parliamentary leaders to discuss terms for a cabinet. Afterwards, the Communist speaker of the lower house, Gennady Seleznyov, said an agreement had been reached with the acting

By PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

premier on "the principles of a coalition government", which would be accompanied by a request to Boris Yeltsin not to interfere with its workings.

Were a deal to be clinched, it would amount to another blow to a seriously weakened President Yeltsin who appeared on national television yesterday to explain his decision to re-appoint Mr Chernomyrdin only five months

after firing him, and to dismiss the short-lived government of Sergei Kiriyenko in the midst of an economic crisis.

It would also horrify Western investors, who were awaiting details of his plans to reschedule \$20bn of short-term debt, and the IMF, which is supervising a \$23bn bail-out package.

By forming a broad-based government Mr Chernomyrdin will be seeking to lower the temperature of public indignation amid a population which has seen growing poverty since the

end of the Soviet Union. The Communists, Russia's largest opposition party, have had the occasional minister in power before, but their pleas for a "government of national unity" have so far been ignored.

During his TV address, Mr Yeltsin appealed to Russians for support, praising Mr Chernomyrdin's "weight and experience". He made clear that he saw the 60-year-old former energy boss as his successor.

The Kremlin said that economic reforms would continue

in Russia, but with "serious changes". President Yeltsin's shake-up comes after fresh economic turmoil from devaluation of the rouble and default prompted the departure of a man regarded in the West as a promising young reformer.

A deputy prime minister under Mr Kiriyenko, Boris Nemtsov, complained of "rampant monopolies" and general lawlessness and announced he did not wish to take part in the new cabinet.

Fall of Boris's empire, page 9



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A dyslexic boy, 15, who won a place at Cambridge went to court to overturn a refusal of financial help
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FOREIGN
America said evidence for bombing a Khartoum factory was a chemical used in VX nerve gas
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BUSINESS
British Airways will today announce its first order of Airbus jets
PAGE 12

SPORT
Duncan Ferguson is a 29m target for Bryan Robson's Middlesbrough
PAGE 24

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- (b) Your tea-leaves
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Low pay threatens cervical tests

The cervical screening programme, which checks four million women a year for warning signs of cancer, cannot find staff because people can earn more by checking groceries at a supermarket.

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New green tax to cut emissions

A 'green' windfall tax is to be levied on the gas and electricity generators, with the aim of raising prices to force industry to cut excessive energy use and cut harmful emissions.

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Holocaust survivors share £36m

More than £36m of gold looted by the Nazis will be distributed to Holocaust survivors worldwide, the Foreign Office revealed as it published a definitive account to date of the whereabouts of the treasures.

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Fears over Bahamas serial killer

The Bahamian government reassured tourists amid fears a serial killer was on the loose after the bodies of two women were found dumped near a secluded beach.

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FOREIGN NEWS

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Burma protests surprise regime

Student protests erupted in the Burmese capital Rangoon for the first time since 1986.

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Woman, 50, in 'mass murder' plot

A 50-year-old woman was arrested outside a Los Angeles post office as she tried to mail dozens of cyanide sachets disguised as promotional samples for a nutrition supplement.

Page 10

'Cover-up' over E Timor murders

The Australian foreign ministry 'knew in advance' of an attack in which five journalists died during Indonesia's 1975 invasion of East Timor.

Page 10

Boesak accused of embezzling

Allan Boesak, the anti-apartheid cleric, is accused of embezzling £110,000 from foreign donations intended to help the poor in the apartheid era.

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BUSINESS NEWS

PAGES 12-17

US braced for UK utility invasion

The US invasion that swept the British utility sector is about to go into reverse with top UK utilities fighting to gain a beachhead in the US.

Page 12

Rivals lure wary Goldman staff

Headhunters are targeting staff at Goldman Sachs in an attempt to exploit the uncertainty about who will benefit most from the imminent flotation of the investment bank.

Page 12

P&O Stena lands maiden results

A growing market in cross-channel travel has helped P&O Stena to a better-than-expected result in its first three months of operation - despite more effective competition from Eurotunnel.

Page 15

SPORTS NEWS

PAGES 18-24

James to be Ryder Cup captain

Mark James is hoping to carry on Europe's winning tradition when he stands by to take over the Ryder Cup captaincy from Seve Ballesteros in Munich tomorrow.

Page 18

Modahl gives BAF 7 days to pay

Diane Modahl has given the British Athletic Federation a seven-day ultimatum to pay adequate compensation or face another fight in the courts.

Page 24

TUESDAY REVIEW

24-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

John Piger

'By knowingly killing innocent people, for political ends, President Clinton is a terrorist. By supporting his action, the Prime Minister and the Defence Secretary are accomplices.'

Page 4

Genevieve Fox

'Thank you, Monica, for making us feel this good, for being the woman we turn to on a bad hair day and come away feeling like Jennifer Aniston by comparison.'

Page 4

Rupert Cornwell

'The structure over which Boris Yeltsin presides must rank as one of the most ineffectual central states on earth, whose writ runs barely beyond the Kremlin's red-brick walls.'

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Cryptic crossword, section one, page 24



NEWSPAPER SUPPLIES
DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR
FOR THE WEEKEND (SAT & SUN)
OR FOR THE WEEK (MON-FRI)



Seven-year-old Sebastian Pozzo playing chess yesterday during the MIND Sport Olympics in London

Jeff Moore

Euro-sceptic challenges Hague to expel him

A FORMER Tory MP who has threatened to stand against "federalist" Conservative candidates in the next year's Euro elections has declared that he is prepared to be expelled from the party for his beliefs.

Nicholas Budgen, former MP for Wolverhampton South West and a leading Euro-sceptic, said that he was unconcerned by threats to kick him and fellow former Northampton North MP Tony Marlow out of the party.

"I would be sorry to be expelled, but if there were greater consequences then I would be more frightened. What are they going to do, hang draw and quarter me?" he said yesterday.

Mr Budgen and Mr Marlow, who lost their seats at the last election, have infuriated the party leadership with their plans to stand in the elections on an anti-federalist ticket.

Both men failed in their attempt to become official Tory

By PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

candidates for the elections next May and claim that "Euro fanatics" were selected instead. The former MPs are understood to have approached Paul Sykes, the businessman who last year offered cash support to all candidates he deemed Euro-sceptic enough, to help fund their campaign.

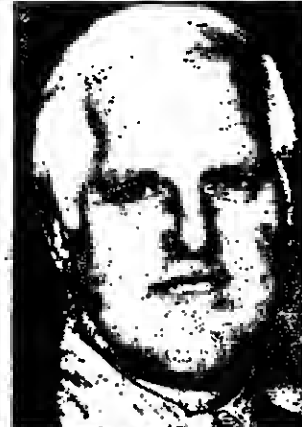
Both Mr Marlow and Mr Budgen were persistent critics of John Major's "wait and see" approach to Britain's entry to European Monetary Union.

Mr Budgen said yesterday that he fully understood that he and other Tory members risked expulsion if they stood as independents.

"Central Office are not going to concede that the Euro selections have been rigged by the Europhiles and there is not a lot we can do about that unless we take legal action, which I don't



Former MPs Nicholas Budgen (left) and Tony Marlow



want to do," he said. "I had hoped that the party would get a broad-based ticket for the elections, but they haven't."

"The Europhiles have undoubtedly been determined to sweep us and they have done so." The Tory party's new ethics and integrity committee,

due to be set up this autumn, may consider the case of the two former MPs with a view to expulsion.

A spokesman for Conservative Central Office confirmed that such challenges to official candidates would be a matter for the new committee. "We

have a first rate slate of candidates across the country," he said. "We do not expect other Conservatives to stand against them in the European elections."

"We would take the matter extremely seriously if these people stood against the democratically selected candidates."

"It was constituency chairman and ordinary members who selected them so they cannot be out of step with the party."

Tory leader William Hague is already facing criticism from Europhile MPs at the party conference in October for his tough stance against a single currency.

Senior figures from the last government, including Kenneth Clarke, Michael Heseltine and Stephen Dorrell, are planning fringe meetings attacking the Euro-sceptic policy adopted by Mr Hague.

MCC to vote on women again

By IAN RURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

AFTER TWO centuries as a bastion of male chauvinism, the Marylebone Cricket Club is at last on the verge of allowing women to apply for membership.

The MCC committee will call a press conference at Lord's Cricket Ground later today at which it is expected to announce a new vote on an issue which is denting the finances of the most famous club in cricket.

The loss of potential sponsors and a £4.5m lottery grant from the Sports Council because of the continued exclusion of women have given impetus to the movement for change within the MCC.

Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, the club president, has signalled his wish that women should be made eligible for election by the time his two-year presidency ends in October.

But under MCC rules, any such change requires the consent of two-thirds of the membership. At a special vote last February, 6,969 members voted in favour of admitting women, with 5,538 against.

The 56 per cent "yes" vote was not enough to end male domination and the reformists now hope to persuade some of the 5,000 non-voters to swing the balance in favour of allowing women.

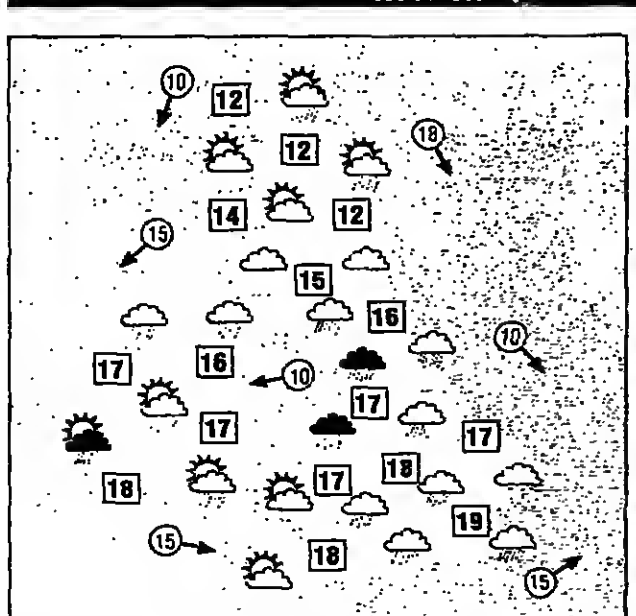
In May, the MCC commissioned research of its members to try to find out why there was still so much resistance to the idea of females among the ranks of red and yellow clubs. Among the half-measures that were suggested in the survey was a male-only bar in the Lord's pavilion.

But many of the respondents are reportedly determined to maintain the status quo. Of the sub-committees consulted, only the one responsible for marketing is said to back the inclusion of women, a move which would attract greater sponsorship for MCC projects such as its schools cricket programme.

Even if a new vote goes in favour of allowing women to join, no female non-playing members would be seen in the Lord's pavilion for 15 years because of the club's enormous waiting list.

But Rachel Heyhoe Flint, the former England women's cricket captain, said she was encouraged that progress was at last being made. "After 211 years, I suppose it's just about time for this change," she said.

BRITAIN TODAY



FORECAST

General situation: Rain for most parts. Many areas will, however, brighten in the afternoon with a mix of sun and scattered showers with the exception of central parts of England where it will remain mostly cloudy. Scotland will generally miss the rain.

Cont S & SE England, London, E Anglia, Uxas, Midlands, Channel Is: There will be rain arriving, which will turn showery in the afternoon with some bright, sunny breaks developing. A moderate south-westerly wind. Max temp 16-19C (61-66F).

Cont N, NE & NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: A lot of cloud and showery rain, some late sunshine in places. A light and rather variable wind. Max temp 15-18C (59-64F).

SW England, Wales: Rain then sunny spells and showers. A moderate westerly wind. Max temp 16-20C (64-68F).

N Ireland: Rain then sunny spells and scattered showers in the afternoon. A light to moderate north-westerly wind. Max temp 15-17C (59-63F).

SN & SE Scotland, Glasgow, Edinburgh: A cloudy spell with the risk of morning rain then brighter with sunny spells in most parts. A light north-east wind. Max temp 15-17C (59-63F).

NW & NE Scotland, Aberdeen, W Isles: Sunny spells with a slight risk of a shower, mainly in the far north. A light northerly wind. Max temp 13-15C (55-61F), colder in the north.

N Isles: Sunny spells with a slight risk of a shower, mainly in the far north. A light northerly wind. Max temp 13-14C (55-57F).

OUTLOOK

A few showers around on Wednesday and Thursday with sunny spells in most parts but temperatures will remain disappointing. Rain is likely in Scotland on Friday but elsewhere will be dry with sunny spells and slightly higher temperatures.

TRAVEL

Roads: London: M1/A12 link road. Variable restrictions in place. Until 31st December 1999.

West Midlands: M5 between J5 (Bham west) and J2 (Dudley). Resurfacing work with narrow lanes both ways.

Until 12th October.

West Yorkshire: M1 between J43 Skarston and J42 (Lofthouse Interchange) (M63). Roadworks with 50mph speed limit.

Until 1st November.

Buckinghamshire: M40 between junction 1a (M25) & 3 Wycombe East. Three narrow lanes both ways and a 50 mph

speed limit in force. Until 1st January 1999.

Benlshire: M4 between J9a Maidenhead and J7 Slough. New road layout with a 50mph speed limit in a new half-mile on-ramp during food relief work.

Until 30th November.

Bristol: M5 J18-19. Major Roadworks on

LIGHTING UP

Belfast	8.33pm to 6.15am
Birmingham	8.12pm to 6.08am
Bristol	8.12pm to 6.13am
Glasgow	8.30pm to 6.09am
London	8.03pm to 6.03am
Manchester	8.16pm to 6.07am
Newcastle	8.17pm to 6.01am

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
Avonmouth	10.06	12.9	10.17	12.9
Blackpool	1.34	8.9	1.32	8.7
Cork	8.19	4.4	8.39	4.4
Erin Loughs	2.04	4.2	2.19	3.9
Falmouth	7.57	5.1	8.04	5.3
Flintward	10.06	4.7	10.19	4.6
Glasgow	3.06	3.6	3.48	3.3
Greenock	9.00	8.7	9.25	8.4
Hull	1.48	9.3	2.05	9.1
Liverpool	9.00	6.6	9.14	6.7
Millford Haven	7.52	6.7	8.06	6.8
Plymouth	7.52	5.3	7.36	5.4
Portsmouth	11.10	4.8	11.24	4.8
Portlaoine	10.43	1.8	10.51	1.9
Portsmouth	10.50	4.7	11.06	4.8
Roslyn	1.14	8.3	1.31	8.0
Scarborough	6.41	5.7	7.08	5.5
Southampton	1.20	5.5	1.40	5.4
Swansea	11.45	1.9	12.00	1.9
Wexford	11.54	3.5	12.16	3.3

AIR QUALITY

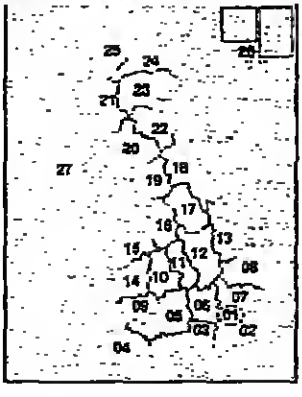
	No ₂	O ₃	PM ₁₀
London	Moderate	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good	Good
C. England	Good	Good	Good
N. England	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good	Good
N. Ireland	Good	Good	Good

SUN & MOON

Sun rises:	05.02
Sun sets:	20.03
Moon rises:	09.27
Moon sets:	21.32
First Quarter:	Aug 30

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial 0800 5000 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).



YESTERDAY

Worst: Dorchester 20C (68F)
Coldest: Radonch 11C (52F)
Wettest: Winterton 0.45 in
Sunniest: Jersey 12.2 hours

EXTREMES

Anglesey	7.5	0.01	17	63
Ardara	4.8	0.11	15	59
Belfast	8.5	0.06	17	63
Birmingham	4.9	0.01	19	64
Bournemouth	5.5	0.01	21	70
Bristol	4.8	0	19	66
Buxton	5.4	0.14	15	59
Cardiff	7.4	0	20	68
Claughton	7.4	0	19	66
Crozier	7.2	0.21	17	63
Edinburgh	7.7	0	18	64
Embsay	5.0	0.01	20	68
Falmouth	6.6	0	15	59
Folkestone	12.1	0	17	n/a
Glasgow	5.1	0	21	70
Headingley	4.1	0.01	18	64
Hove	4.2	0	22	72
Isle of Man	8.4	0.01	17	63
Isle of Wight	3.8	0.01	19	66
Jersey	0.8	0.09	18	64
Kendal	10.9	0.01	19	66
Leeds	4.6	0.01	18	64
Lisakeampan	3.2	0	20	68
London	6.3	0	20	68
Manchester	6.3	0.02	17	63
Margate	4.8	0	20	68
Newcastle	9.9	0.04	16	61
Newquay	5.4	0.17	18	n/a
Northwich	5.5	0.01	20	68
Oxford	6.9	0.01	19	66
Ros-on-weir	5.9	0.01	20	68
Salisbury	5.5	0.01	20	68
Scarborough	9.8	0	18	61
Scarborough	9.3	0.01	18	64
Southport	7.0	0	22	72
Southport	0.03	17	63	
Stornoway	0.16	15	59	
Sunderland	4.3	0.01	20	68
Tarby	7.7	0	18	64
Torquay	5.3	0	21	70
Walsingham	5.0	0.01	19	66
Weymouth	5.2	0.01	20	68

24 hours to 6pm (GMT) Monday

Information by PA WeatherCentre

COME RAIN OR SHINE...

THE DRAB summer has left customers expecting celebratory hot air balloon rides deflated. Record numbers of 3,000 high rides - which cost more than a £100 each - have been cancelled, meaning delays of two or three months on some bookings.

Pilot Sheila Anthony, of Gloucestershire-based Virgin Balloons, said "It's the worst summer I can remember."

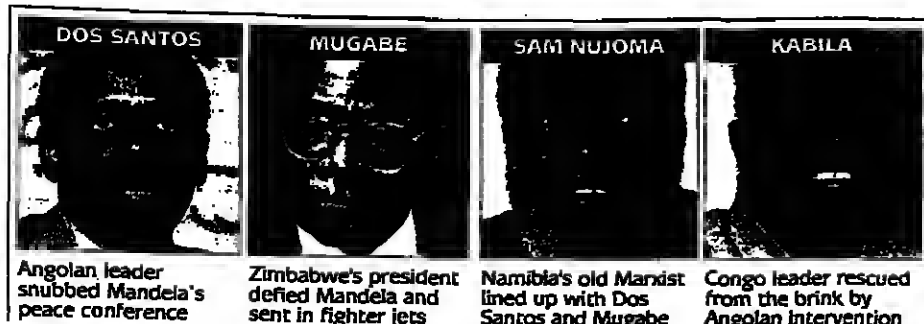
Sheila Anthony, of Gloucestershire-based Virgin Balloons, said "It's the worst summer I can remember."

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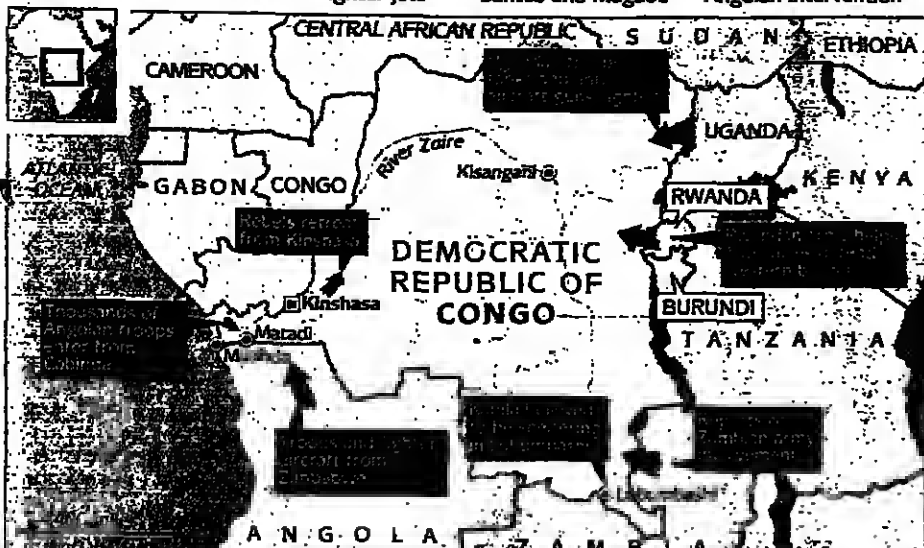
THE WORLD

	Sea	Rain	Max	Min
Aberdeen	7.2	0.04	16	51
Anglesey	6.5	0.01	17	63
Ardara	4.8	0.11	15	59
Belfast	8.5	0.06	17	63
Birmingham	4.9	0.01	19	64
Bournemouth	5.5	0.01	21	70
Bristol	4.8	0	19	66
Buxton	5.4	0.14	15	59
Cardiff	7.4	0	20	68
Claughton	7.4	0	19	66
Crozier	7.4	0.21	17	63
Edinburgh	7.7	0	18	64
Embsay	5.0	0.01	20	68
Falmouth	6.6	0	15	59
Folkestone	12.1	0	17	63

A continent faces civil war in Marx's last-ditch stand against democracy



Angolan leader snubbed Mandela's peace conference
Zimbabwe's president defied Mandela and sent in fighter jets
Namibia's old Marxist lined up with Dos Santos and Mugabe
Congo leader rescued from the brink by Angolan intervention



Ugandan president backing Tutsi ethnic cousins in Rwanda
South Africa's pleas for settlement fell on deaf ears
Conflict breathed new life into his Unita movement
Rwandan leader's priority to stop another Hutu uprising



Congolese rebels moving up to the front line yesterday as Angolan troops deployed to try to head off the drive on the capital Reuters

ANGOLAN troops were last night pouring into the Democratic Republic of Congo in an advance that fanned the flames of the crisis in central Africa. The Angolan move was designed to save President Laurent Kabila from rebel armies that had advanced to within 20 miles of his capital, Kinshasa. But the crisis has placed one-time allies in opposing camps. The rebellion against Mr Kabila has drawn in at least six southern or central African countries. Three countries whose leaders have not broken the mould of the Marxist traditions that formed them - Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia - are lined up on the side of Mr Kabila against three countries whose leaders have embraced democracy, as in the case of South Africa, or modernised it in a way which finds favour in the West, as with President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda.

BY MARY BRAID
in Johannesburg

His allies in Tutsi-led Rwanda, bordering on Congo in the east, have an interest in events in there that dates back to the 1994 genocide of Tutsis by Hutus and the subsequent sheltering of Hutus in what was Zaire. A South African-inspired truce to prevent the rebellion becoming regional war was shot down before it got off the ground as Angola's troops flooded into Congo from its oil-rich Cabinda enclave. South Africa says the rebellion puts Africa on the brink of unprecedented conflict. Leaders like President Eduardo dos Santos of Angola took a step nearer the abyss after refusing to join President Nelson Mandela for peace talks at the weekend. The 14-member Southern African Development Community (SADC), chaired by Mr

Mandela, was formulating a truce proposal - "unanimously" passed despite the absence of Mr Dos Santos and President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, who has also sent troops to help Mr Kabila - as Angolans were making their first foray into Congo. They retook Kitona from the rebels, cutting them off from their main western airbase and from where they began their assault on Kinshasa. They also claim to have snatched other nearby towns from rebel control. But it was to Kitona that the rebels might have been expected to retreat if their campaign failed. Outside military intervention, which has led to a split between Mr Mugabe and Mr Mandela, has given breathing-space to Mr Kabila, whose days, even until the weekend, were numbered. Yesterday the Congolese

government was jubilant. It said that Angolan and Zimbabwean planes were attacking the western rebel units from both sides. In rebel-held territory in eastern Congo, a rebel spokesman admitted his troops had been forced to make a "strategic pull-back" on the western front. A Congolese government spokesman crowed: "What are they going to do? Who will supply them? ... They have no rear base. They are in disarray." The reality is that the Rwandan forces backing the rebellion will not give up and go home. It was Rwanda and Uganda that put Mr Kabila in power more than a year ago when they helped him oust Mobutu Sese Seko, Congo's long-term dictator. The deal was that Mr Kabila would secure Uganda's borders from anti-government forces and prevent Hutu extremists, responsible for the

genocide of 800,000 Rwandan Tutsis in 1994, from using eastern Congo as a base from which to continue attacks into Rwanda. Mr Kabila not only failed to honour the bargain, he even got cosy with his former sponsors' enemies. Foreign policy in Rwanda, where the minority Tutsis now govern the Hutu majority, is centred on the security question. Rwanda's second invasion of Congo, like the first, is regarded simply as a battle for ethnic survival. The entry of the Angolans and Zimbabweans into the fray may have bought Mr Kabila time but in regional terms it has only upped the ante. Analysts are now waiting for Uganda, which already has troops in eastern Congo, to send in soldiers to support Rwanda on the western front. Though President Museveni

attended the peace talks and, like President Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda and the Congolese delegation sent in place of a "sick" Mr Kabila, publicly backed a cease-fire call, he also said Uganda would protect its interests with force if Zimbabwe and Angola did not withdraw their troops. That events are spinning out of control is obvious. Congo's rebellion is already affecting events in neighbouring countries. Yesterday Angola was the first to feel the backlash. For months the MPLA government and Unita rebels have been inching back towards civil war. Yesterday Unita announced that it was cutting ties with peace observers, Portugal, the United States and Russia, effectively abandoning the peace accord between itself and the Angolan government. Unita accused the three for-

eign governments of backing the MPLA government. The Congolese war has breathed new life into the Angolan rebel force. Just a year ago it, and its leader, Jonas Savimbi, were written off when the ousting of Mobutu cut off its arms-supply routes. There are reports that Unita has found a new role - and new allies - fighting on the side of the Rwandan-backed rebels. More crucial perhaps is the fact that involvement in Congo has weakened the Angolan government's military position at home, and Unita may have seized a chance to take advantage. In a region of such delicate political balance there are plenty of leaders, motivated by narrow self-interest, ready to take advantage of the Congolese instability. The autocratic Mr Mugabe, it is said, is support-

ing Mr Kabila to stop his own disgruntled population entertaining notions of rebellion. Mr Mandela had to scramble to convince SADC members to push for a negotiated settlement. Mr Mugabe's premature intervention, initially supported by Namibia, Zambia and Angola, had exposed divisions within the organisation, where Mr Mandela the democrat has been locked in a battle with Mr Mugabe, the dictator whose regional influence has waned since Mr Mandela entered the political scene. Mr Mandela preaches the negotiating table and once again does so to the sound of gunfire. Mr Mugabe still goes for good old-fashioned brute force. In coming days that contest will be decided. If, as it looks at the moment, the gun wins, the region faces a disaster in which many will die and many many more will suffer.

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New tax on energy could raise £5bn

A "GREEN" windfall tax looks set to be levied on the gas and electricity generators, with the aim of raising prices to force industry to cut excessive energy use and cut harmful emissions.

Some Whitehall insiders estimate the Chancellor could raise £5bn in an energy tax which could be unveiled in the Chancellor's pre-budget statement in the autumn.

Ministers said the aim of the tax was to reduce the waste of energy, not to raise revenue for the Treasury, but it could give

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

the Chancellor a bonus for the general election campaign.

"It is big money and it is implementing our Kyoto targets on carbon dioxide, making industry more efficient and giving them incentives to cut waste in energy," said a ministerial source.

Whitehall sources said the Chancellor was planning to offset the extra burden on industry by offering tax breaks, but

it will still mean that some companies will face higher charges, which they may have to pass on to their customers, unless stopped from doing so by the regulators.

The tax breaks could include cuts in National Insurance contributions for industries hit by the tax to make it cheaper to hire workers, and to prevent the move contributing to a rise in unemployment.

Big users of energy, such as the steel industry, who are already efficient, could be given

special exemptions. Officials believe the main targets will be middle-range firms, heavy users of gas and electricity who have room for more efficiency.

The appointment of Sir Colin Marshall, the President of the Confederation of British Industry, to head the review of an energy tax, announced in last year's budget, was seen by the "green" lobby as a signal that big business would be able to head off the threat of a tax, when it was announced in the Budget by the Chancellor.

But although Sir Colin's task force of Whitehall officials has yet to finish its report, Whitehall insiders have told *The Independent* that Sir Colin's review is expected to come down firmly in favour of an energy tax on industry.

"If we had appointed somebody like Jonathan Parritt from Friends of the Earth, business would never have bought it, but Sir Colin will be able to sell it to big business," said a senior ministerial source. "His appointment makes it more likely, not less likely, that there will be a big industry energy tax."

Ministers believe Mr Brown will go ahead with the tax in his next Budget in the spring, next year. It would be imposed on the generators, making it easy for the Government to collect, and automatically passed to big industrial users of energy.

The idea is to get industry to be much more efficient in the way it uses energy," said the source. "The Government could be accused of breaking its election pledge to make the windfall tax

on the privatised "one-off" to fund its welfare-to-work programme. But Mr Brown said in the Budget that the task force, bringing together people from industry and Whitehall, "shows that the Government and the private sector can achieve more working together".

In June, Sir Colin launched a consultation paper on the idea of an energy tax, saying there was a "need for industry and commerce to make a contribution towards tackling climate change".

The closing date for submissions was the end of July. The task force is also looking at a trading scheme in energy or carbon emissions, which would enable firms to "buy" permits from competitors.

At the Kyoto conference last year, the European Union committed itself to a reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases of 8 per cent below 1990 levels by 2008 to 2012. The UK has its own target of a 20 per cent cut in carbon dioxide emissions on 1990 levels by 2010.

Shoppers return to high street blighted by terror

THE ANONYMOUS message attached to the flowers outside the green-painted shop-front summed up the feelings of so many. It said simply: "Things will never be the same."

The flowers, piled up with hundreds of others outside Wattersons drapers in Omagh, had been left in memory of three members of staff from the shop who died last Saturday. Geraldine Breslin, 43, Veda Short, 56, and Ann McCombe, 49, were all killed after being evacuated from the shop in the centre of the High Street.

Yesterday morning Wattersons was one of many shops in Omagh which reopened their doors for the first time since the bomb blast, which killed 28 and injured 220.

"We have had busloads of people coming in here to sympathise and to talk about what happened," said Neville Hagan, 30, one of the members of staff. "There have been lots of hugs and people have been great. They are still coming and placing flowers - it's amazing to see the grief shared by so many people."

Mr Hagan had been in work

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

when the bomb exploded, killing his colleagues, and he realised that returning to work would be difficult. But he said most people felt that life, somehow, had to go on - a view shared by the town's Chamber of Commerce which had urged retailers to reopen yesterday.

He added: "It won't be easy but having the support of all these people will help."

In a show of that support, hundreds of people went into Omagh yesterday morning, milling around in a sombre mood. The conversations - quite predictably - were about one topic only, but many believe it essential Omagh struggles to find some sense of normality.

Roy Allen, chairman of the Omagh Chamber of Commerce said: "The main problem is obviously guilt. We feel that maybe we shouldn't be open, but at the same time the general idea round the town is that everybody wants us to be open."

"We're there to give a service to our customers and that



Getting back to normal: The people of Omagh take to the streets once more a week after a 500lb car bomb killed 28 people while they were out shopping. *Pace-maker*

service we will continue to give, second to none."

Mr Allen yesterday met Arthur Sandford, the chief executive of Manchester City Council, to share his experiences of restoring Manchester

following an IRA bomb explosion. Members of the Chamber of Commerce from Portadown, Co Armagh, and Banbridge, Co Down - a target of Real IRA bomb explosions earlier this year - were also present at the

meeting with council officials to offer support.

Mr Sandford said after the meeting: "I put some practical suggestions that may not have come from elsewhere as to how businesses can be helped,

how you need to re-publicise your town, businesses that are still there and businesses that have relocated and reopened in the future."

That process will take a long time. Many of the premises in

the High Street - part of which is still sealed off to the public with a high corrugated metal fence - were severely damaged.

But by killing and injuring so many innocent people from a

town largely untouched by the Troubles, the 500lb homemade bomb also robbed Omagh of its self-confidence.

Repairing those shattered business premises will be the easiest part.

Dolly's creators won't copy cats

BRITISH RESEARCHERS who cloned Dolly the sheep have turned down requests from dog and cat owners wanting copies of their pets. It was revealed last night.

The news emerged as it was disclosed that a Texan millionaire was paying an American laboratory more than £3m to clone his dog.

Dr Harry Griffin, of the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh - where Dolly the sheep was created - said: "We have not been offered large sums of money, but we certainly have had a number of approaches by people who want to clone their pets. As far as we are concerned we disapprove of going down this road, because it perpetuates the myth that you can re-create an individual through cloning."

An investigation by BBC 2's *Newsnight* programme last night revealed that the cloning laboratory at Texas A & M University at College Station, has already received cells from the

BY JOHN VON RADOWITZ

millionaire's collie-Alsatian bitch, called Missy. It has a two-year deadline in which to produce a replica of the animal.

The programme also claimed that a member of the Saudi royal family was recently approached to fund the cloning of race horses - a move which would breach the strict breeding rules of racing.

Dr Griffin said there were good reasons for not attempting to clone people's pets.

He said: "The technology hasn't reached that point, and in order to clone an animal you need a supply of eggs from donor females and surrogate mothers to carry the offspring."

"Certainly in Britain and Europe the animal welfare benefits of cloning a pet would not be sufficient to warrant experimenting on donors and surrogate mothers. Thirdly, this sort of proposal perpetuates the myths about cloning."

Checkout staff are earning more than cancer technicians

THE CERVICAL screening programme which checks four million women a year for early warning signs of cancer cannot find staff to do the work because they can earn more checking groceries at a supermarket checkout.

A government report published yesterday said laboratories across the country were facing increasing difficulties recruiting staff because of poor pay and "adverse publicity" arising from the scandals that have beset the service. It said the position had deteriorated over the past year.

Sarah May, of the Institute of Biomedical Science, said that A-level school-leavers joining a management course at Marks & Spencer were paid £14,000 a year compared to £7,000 a year for those that went into cervical screening. "Attracting people is a challenge," she said. After two years' training,

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

the pay of screeners, who check smears under the microscope for signs of abnormal cells, rises to £9,437 and then in steps to £13,849 a year.

Sir Kenneth Calman, the chief medical officer, said that he was concerned about the difficulties and urged NHS managers to be flexible on pay to ensure the programme was adequately staffed. The job carried a heavy responsibility, the training was arduous and the staff faced heavy criticism when things went wrong. "The disincentives to becoming a screener are very high," he said.

Despite the difficulties, the programme was preventing up to 3,900 cases of cervical cancer, and saving 800 lives a year, he said. He described it as a "world-renowned life-saver" whose image had been unfairly

damaged by a handful of isolated problems.

Sir Kenneth said that cervical screening was not a test for cancer but aimed to detect abnormalities that might lead to cancer if not treated.

As with any screening programme, it was impossible to achieve 100 per cent accuracy, so checks to ensure that high standards were being met were essential. These were bound to pick up problems.

The report, by the Cervical Screening Action Team, showed that 9 of the 180 laboratories were seeing significantly fewer than 15,000 smears a year - the minimum judged necessary to maintain their expertise.

Sir Kenneth said their future would be decided later this year. All but four of the laboratories had sought accreditation which required them to meet certain quality standards. The action team was set up

in 1997, following concerns raised by failures in the management of the screening service at Kent and Canterbury NHS Hospitals Trust in which at least eight women died and 90,000 were recalled for re-screening.

The team found "strong preliminary evidence" that abnormal smears had been underdiagnosed nationally between 1990 and 1994, falsely reassuring women who were at risk of cancer.

Yesterday's report said that better training was being given to laboratory staff. It also said that laboratories were more open about their standards, and that all were being kept under stringent review.

Dr Mary Buchanan, of the Women's Nationwide Cancer Control Campaign, said: "It is so important for women to continue to go for screening because it is saving lives."

IN BRIEF

Stranded ferry passengers go home

HUNDREDS OF passengers whose cars were trapped overnight on a ferry headed home yesterday after a delay of 16 hours. When a pontoon needed to get 200 lorries and cars off the Stena ferry failed, passengers who had travelled from the Hook of Holland to Harwich, Essex, had to spend the night in the arrivals lounge and local hotels.

Man dies from molten zinc burns

A MAINTENANCE contractor died after falling into a vat of molten metal at a factory in Witham, Essex. The man of Higham, Kent, 52, suffered 100 per cent burns from boiling zinc at South East Galvanising. The Health and Safety Executive launched an investigation into the incident.

Rally against 'hedge abuse'

A BIRMINGHAM man who won a long legal battle with a neighbour over a 40ft hedge led a rally calling for laws to stop "hedge abuse". More than 150 people whose homes suffer because of large hedges grown by neighbours attended the event organised by Michael Jones, 69.

Scorpion stings teenager on jet

AN INQUIRY has been launched after a teenage girl was stung by a scorpion on board a holiday jet. She was waiting to take off from Birmingham International on a flight to Ibiza when the creature attacked her. It is thought to have got in the cabin in hand luggage when the plane left Kos.

Housing market slows down

THE HOUSING market is hanging in the balance after a summer of slowing house price rises and a drop in the number of homes sold, according to a survey published by Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' for England and Wales.

Police resume search for husband

POLICE FROGMEN will resume their search today for the body of missing honeymooner Barry Collett, 29, along a stretch of the river Wharfe in North and West Yorkshire. The search will concentrate on an area near a weir where the body of Mr Collett's wife, Lynn, 26, was found on Sunday.

Tanker in Channel fire alert

MARINE SAFETY experts were yesterday examining a liquid gas tanker that was at the centre of a fire emergency in the Channel, which left one crewman injured. They went aboard the 2,223 tonne Danish vessel *Linda Kosan* when she anchored off Falmouth, Cornwall.

Votes for EU citizens in UK

EU CITIZENS living in the UK will be able to vote here in next year's European Parliamentary elections provided that they are eligible for a European vote in their own country.

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VIAGRA CORNER

DESPATCHES FROM THE FRONTIERS
OF MEDICINE

HOSPITAL accident and emergency departments have been warned to ask heart attack victims whether they have taken Viagra, to avoid the risk of a potentially fatal drug interaction.

Pfizer, manufacturers of the anti-impotence drug, has written to A&E physicians to alert them to the risk of giving a nitrate, the commonest short-term treatment for a heart attack, to men who have recently taken Viagra.

Evidence from the US, where there have been more than two dozen deaths linked with Viagra, has shown that the combination of the two drugs can lead to sudden, large drops in blood pressure. Although Viagra is not yet



licensed in Britain, Pfizer said it had issued the warning because some private clinics were prescribing it, legally, on a "named patient" basis, and some men had obtained it, illegally, via the Internet.

JEREMY LAURANCE

League tables for driving schools

NATIONAL LEAGUE tables detailing the best and worst driving instructors could soon be published by the Government, it was announced yesterday.

Instructors are about to be sent figures detailing pass rates over the last 12 months, which could be made public under plans being considered by the Driving Standards Agency.

"The possible publication of league tables for instructors is something we are looking at," a DSA spokeswoman said.

"We are writing to approved driving instructors over the next two months telling them how their pupils have fared."

BY PETER WOODMAN

a management tool for the instructors and it would need freedom of information legislation changes to this information to be made public."

The DSA added that: "The type of candidate dealt with could affect the pass-rate figure, and that's something we would have to take into consideration if tables were published."

The pass rate for the practical driving test in 1997-98 was 46.73 per cent compared with 44.75 per cent in 1996-97. Theory test pass rates in 1997-98 were 65.23 per cent compared with 70.05 per cent in 1996-97.

July 11, 1998

£5bn

Council refuse grants to dyslexic 15-year-old bound for Cambridge

A 15-YEAR-OLD severely dyslexic boy who has won a place at Cambridge University yesterday went to the High Court to overturn a council's refusal to give him financial help.

Alexander Faludy became the youngest person to be offered a place at Cambridge when he was 14, after dictating essays on the rationalist argument for the existence of God and the influence of classicism on the sixteenth-century Italian architect, Palladio.

He has an IQ "off the normal scale" but can write only two illegible words a minute and also suffers from dyspraxia, sometimes called "clumsy child syndrome".

Portsmouth City Council has refused him money for special equipment to read books and write essays which he needs for his degree in history of art and theology. He has to learn from taped books and dictate work which is typed out by his father, Andrew.

Philip Engelman, Alexander's counsel, told the court that Alexander was a special case because of the unusually wide gap between his IQ and the low performance caused by his dyslexia.

Mr Engelman argued that the council should use money from its fund for pupils with special educational needs to top up his university grant. It had refused because it only provides money for pupils from local authority schools. Alexander, who is due to start at Peterhouse in October, has attended Milton Abbey, a fee-paying boys'

boarding school in Dorset.

Mr Engelman described him as "very clever indeed". At the age of three he could recite *Thomas the Tank Engine* stories verbatim and by the age of eight had dictated an analysis of *Othello*. At nine he became the youngest person to pass a GCSE English Literature exam (with a B grade) and passed English A-level (with another B grade) when he was 11.

His parents then took him away from school because he was being bullied and he began an Open University arts course. He has been at Milton Abbey for three years.

Mr Justice Tucker yesterday lifted the ban on identifying Alexander after he heard that he had written a book about his experiences. He said he would give judgment in the case at 4pm today.

Earlier this year, Alexander, who was once ranked 20th out of 22 in his primary class, said that he had decided to apply to Peterhouse after listening to tapes of *Porterhouse Blue* by Tom Sharpe which he read when he was ten. Neither parent will accompany him when he goes up to Cambridge.

Mrs Faludy said that she believed his gifts were related to his dyslexic brain which made different connections from a normal brain. His parents, both English teachers, discovered he was a prodigy because of his impressive response to Tolkien when he was five.



Alexander Faludy: At three he could recite *Thomas the Tank Engine* stories verbatim and by eight had dictated an analysis of *Othello* Sofia Khan

Death pilot 'blinded' by mist

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

THE PILOT of a helicopter which crashed killing a nine-year-old boy during a charity flight, could not see properly because the windscreen had misted up, an official inquiry was told yesterday.

Garry Malley, from Dundee, died instantly and four other children with special needs were injured, when the helicopter - arranged by the television celebrity Noel Edmonds' charity Airborne, crashed in a field during an emergency landing.

Earlier this year the pilot, Robert Hobson, was cleared of negligence relating to the crash at Glamis Castle, Angus, in July last year, when he appeared before a Crown Court.

Yesterday an inquiry at Farfar Sheriff's Court, was told the pilot's visibility was hampered because the helicopter - a Bell Jet Ranger - misted up in wet and humid weather.

Another pilot, Paul Smith, told the inquiry that moments before the crash Mr Hobson told him on the radio he had visibility problems.

"He said he had a problem and he couldn't see through the windscreen," Mr Smith said. He said he had experienced problems with that make of helicopter. "I have flown all different types and all seem to have a very inadequate demister," he said.

"When conditions are like those in July last year, it just doesn't demist and it can get suddenly worse in the air."

Earlier the inquiry was told that in the run-up to the crash, there seemed to be confusion between the organisers and those responsible for the flying operation. Forth and Clyde Helicopters, based at Edinburgh Airport. An organiser for the Airborne charity, Sarah Joyce, admitted there seemed to be "confusion" surrounding boarding arrangements for children on the three helicopters operating that day. A list found in the Bell Jet Ranger that crashed contained details of passengers who should have been on another helicopter.

The inquiry continues.

Hard-up students try switching to local universities

STUDENTS ARE trying to switch to their local universities at the last minute because of financial worries, universities reported yesterday.

They said that students who had achieved the grades to go to universities distant from their homes were having second thoughts because of the introduction of tuition fees and the replacement of half the stu-

dent grant with a loan. The requests for transfer pose problems for universities which still have vacancies during the present clearing process which matches students to spare places.

Students are bound contractually to go to universities at which they have accepted

conditional offers if they gain the necessary A-level grades.

Kathy Dunn, assistant registrar for lifelong learning at Teesside University, said: "A new development this year has been the steady increase in the number of students asking whether they can transfer to Teesside because it is their local university - after getting grades acceptable to their first

or second choice university. I believe this is clearly the result of the changes in student finance."

Hertfordshire University, which is putting on a special bus service for North London students, reported a similar increase in people wanting to transfer to their local university. Penny O'Callaghan, assistant registrar for admissions, said: "Most of the people requesting

release are giving finance as the reason."

Kingston University was more sceptical. A spokeswoman said that there had been no obvious increase in local clearing applicants. "People who are trying to get out of offers are talking about costs. We don't know whether they are just using it as an excuse."

A spokesman for the Uni-

versities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas) said that students who wanted to turn down firm offers were obliged to withdraw their applications and apply again next year.

The proportion of university students living at home has been increasing steadily for several years.

By yesterday, Ucas figures showed that 235,591 of the

330,000 or so university places had been filled compared with 227,442 at the same time last year.

Friday's list of top comprehensives at A-level included Didcot Girls' School in Oxfordshire. The results were in fact those for Didcot Sixth Forms, a combination of Didcot Girls' School and St Birinus.

Inside: Official Ucas guide

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Why the truth may never be known about the bombing of PanAm 103

BY PAUL LASHMAR

THERE IS only one indisputable truth about PanAm 103, which is that at 19.02 on 21 December 1988, a Boeing 747 exploded at 31,000ft and crashed on Lockerbie, killing 270 people. Since then, myriad allegations have reached critical mass, allowing a variety of conspiracy theories to be constructed.

And they all sound plausible: the Libyans did it to avenge Ronald Reagan's attack on Tripoli in 1986; the Iranians to avenge the accidental shooting down of one of their airliners by the USS Vincennes in July 1988; Palestinian terrorists did it to eliminate a CIA team preparing to rescue Western hostages in Beirut.

The official finger points at the Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi, but the international spotlight focuses on two small-time Libyans, Abdel Basset al-Megrahi and al-Amin Khalifa Fhimah, accused of being agents who planted the bombs for Libyan intelligence. Charges were laid in 1991 after an investigation led by Chief Inspector Watson McAteer of Dumfries and Galloway Police, assisted by the FBI. Investigators believed the bomb was 10-14oz of Semtex in a Toshiba cassette recorder, itself in a brown Samsonite suitcase.

At the time, both Libyans were working for Libyan Arab Airlines in Malta. The prosecution will claim they smuggled a bomb in an unaccompanied case into the airport's luggage transfer system and the case was transferred to PanAm 103 at Heathrow.

The key evidence hinges on a fragment of circuit board found in baggage of the plane. It is believed to be part of a timing device sold by a Swiss company to Libya. Tags on clothes in the case proved they were Maltese, sold in only one shop there. The owner was shown photos of Arabs and is said to have picked out Mr Megrahi. In statements he said the man was older and taller than Mr Megrahi. More recent evidence confirming Colonel Gaddafi's hand in the affair comes from a mysterious Libyan defector. But, seven years on, the central planks of the prosecution case look shaky. The Maltese authorities and airline do not accept that unidentified luggage left Malta. The circuit boards were also sold elsewhere. Such are the uncertainties that those with a close interest in the case, including Tam Dalyell MP and Jim Swire, have doubts about the case against the Libyans.

It is now suspected that Libya was scapegoated. Mr Dalyell suspects Iran, aided by Syria, might be the guilty party. The official accusation against Libya came shortly after the

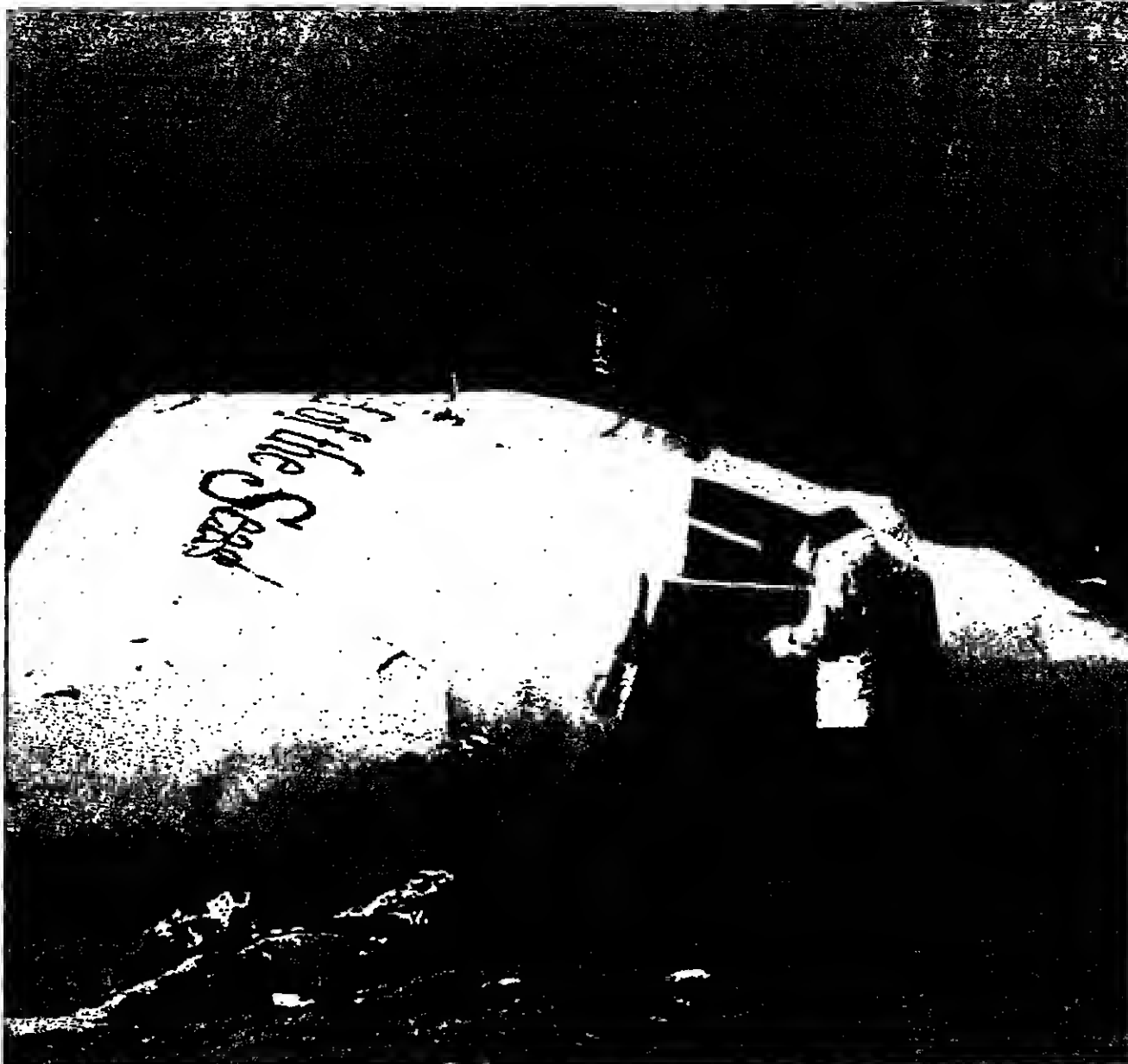


AL-AMIN KHALIFA FHIMAH
MR FHIMAH was listed as the airline station manager at Luka International airport in Malta for the Libyan Arab Airlines.

But Western intelligence says that is a cover for his real occupation, as a Libyan intelligence officer. Mr Fhimah was born in Suk Giuma, Libya, on 4 April 1956. He speaks Arabic and English.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation he has had three Libyan passports, and is said to have used three aliases.

Mr Fhimah insists that he is a peace-loving, married father of five, who was "neither an intelligence man nor a politician".



Inspectors examining the wreckage of PanAm flight 103 at Lockerbie. The bombing killed a total of 270 people



ABDEL BASSET AL-MEGRAHI
A FORMER director of Libya's Centre for Strategic Studies, Mr Megrahi was chief of airline security for Libyan Arab Airlines. He was in Malta in the lead up to the bombing and is also accused of being a Libyan intelligence officer.

Born in Tripoli on 1 April 1952, Mr Megrahi learnt English in America where he studied in the Seventies. Mr Megrahi is married. The Federal Bureau of Investigation says he has at least four Libyan passports and has used up to nine aliases. In an interview with an ABC News reporter for US television in December 1991, Mr Megrahi said: "You judge me falsely, I'm a quiet man, I never had any problem with anybody. My life is clean."

TEN YEARS OF INVESTIGATING LOCKERBIE

21 Dec 1988: Bomb explodes on PanAm 103 flying at 31,000ft, killing all 259 on board and 11 more as part of jet crashes at Lockerbie.

31 Jan 1989: US government reveals more than 100 flaws in airport security.

1 April: Lockerbie victims' committee called UK Families Flight 103 set up.

10 May 1990: PanAm reaches out-of-court settlement with Scottish families of dead.



16 Oct 1991: US Supreme Court rejects appeal for punitive damages against PanAm by relatives of victims.

14 Nov: Charges against Libyans Ali Basset al-Megrahi and al-Amin Khalifa Fhimah announced in Washington and Edinburgh.

18 Nov: Libya calls for international inquiry, offers to send dispute to neutral bodies.

22 Jan 1992: UN resolution urges Libya to comply with extradition or face sanctions.

31 March: UN tells Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi (left) to surrender suspects by 15 April or face worldwide ban on air travel and arms sales.

15 April: UN air and arms embargo takes effect.

8 April 1993: UN retains sanctions against Libya.

13 August: US, France and Britain threaten Libya with tougher sanctions by 1 October.

1 Oct: UN deadline for Libya to surrender the two suspects for trial expires.

2 Oct: Britain, France and the United States stiffen sanctions.



17 Feb 1994: Britain rejects offer by Libya to allow suspects to stand trial before Muslim court anywhere in the world.

23 March 1995: US offers \$4m reward for information leading to arrest.

Nov: Families secure out-of-court settlements from PanAm's insurers.

April 1996: Libyan suspects agree to trial under Scottish law in neutral location.

10 July: UN sanctions begin to weaken.

Oct: Victim's father Jim Swire (centre) meets South African President, Nelson Mandela (right).

25 Oct: At Commonwealth conference in

Edinburgh, Mr Mandela urges Britain and US to accept a trial in neutral state.

28 Oct: In Commons, Tony Blair insists Libyans should stand trial in Scotland.

20 April 1998: Mr Swire travels to Libya with Scottish law expert Professor Robert Black to broker terms of trial.

18 Aug: BAE reported to be negotiating aircraft deal with Libya.



Gulf war. Here, says Mr Dalyell, is the clue: "The West wanted Syria and Iran to be benevolent towards military action against Saddam Hussein."

The US itself muddled the waters of the inquiry within hours of the bombing: mysterious officials were reported on the crash site, tampering with bodies and evidence.

The Iranians had a specific motive and long-standing animosity towards the US. According to one theory, after the Vincennes shot down the Iranian Airbus, the interior minister, Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, and hard-liners commissioned the Syrian-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, General Command, led by Ahmed Jabril, to carry out the revenge attack.

His bomb-maker, Marwan Khreizat, was sent to Ger-

many and assembled five bombs. But in October he and 14 other suspects were arrested and a bomb was seized.

Members of the unit, including Khreizat, were later freed by the Germans, which raised the question - was he a double agent?

Five weeks later, US and British authorities were warned that a bomb was to be placed on a US transatlantic

flight. It is said VIPs and US diplomats and CIA staff cancelled bookings on PanAm 103, enabling late bookers such as Flora Swire to get a seat.

The next step of the theory was most clearly postulated by the late US documentary-maker Allan Francovich in his *Molotov Double Cross*. The argument centred on a Lebanese-born American, Khalid Jafaar, who was on

PanAm 103. Part of a drug-producing family from the Bekaa valley, he was ordered by Hizbollah to take heroin to the US. But Jabril's men switched his heroin for the bomb when he stopped in Germany.

This theory says Jabril was taking advantage of a deal struck by the CIA and the US Drug Enforcement Administration with the Syrian bosses of Lebanese drug-trafficking in

return for helping the Syrians use their influence to free the Lebanese hostages. The sub-plot is that his team were killed to prevent key information getting back to the US.

If you think this is complicated, remember it is the simplified version. For once the cliché "in a plot worthy of John Le Carré" does not do the reality justice. Even if the two Libyans are tried, the real truth may never be revealed.

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What is known is that an unaccompanied Samsonite suitcase containing a Toshiba cassette player full of Semtex was loaded on the aircraft. According to the US and British governments, the suitcase had been sent from Malta to Frankfurt and transferred on to the New York-bound 747.

The bomb was responsible for the deaths of 270 people.

PAUL LASHMAR

Impact so big that it registered on the Richter scale

FLORA SWIRE, a brilliant 23-year-old medical student, was delighted that she had been able to get a ticket to spend Christmas with her boyfriend in Boston. Flora had just graduated with a first-class degree in medical sciences from Nottingham University and had been accepted to do a PhD at the Institute of Neurology in London.

On the afternoon of 21 December 1988, Flora arrived at

Heathrow to join PanAm 103 - the regular Frankfurt to New York flight via London. The eldest child of Dr Jim Swire and his wife, Jane, Flora had got her ticket just few days before.

The 35 students of the University of Syracuse had also booked late. The aircraft was packed with students and that is in part why the average age of the 243 passengers was 37. Also in the queue at Heathrow

was Yvonne Owen, 29, a trainee social worker from Bristol. With her she had her 18-month-old baby, Bryony.

PanAm 103 took off from Heathrow at 18.25. As it was approaching the Burnham beacon, it took a radar heading of 350 degrees and climbed to 31,000ft.

At 19.02 hrs and 50 seconds the bomb exploded in the hold. A complete wing structure attached to the centre section of

the aircraft crashed on the southern edge of the Scottish town of Lockerbie. Large portions of the aircraft landed on farmland to the east of the town, and wreckage was scattered over 90 miles.

The impact was so strong that the British Geological Survey station in Edinburgh on the other side of Scotland recorded a seismic event measuring 1.6 on the Richter scale. The air-

craft section that hit Lockerbie gouged a crater 15ft wide and 19ft long, and demolished 21 buildings in the worst-hit area, Sherwood Crescent. The mass of metal and fuel caused an inferno, killing 11 of the town's residents.

Later it would be claimed that seats on the flight were available so late because many American officials had cancelled their bookings after warnings of a ter-

rorist attack on a US aircraft. It is said that the former South African foreign minister, Piki Botha, also cancelled.

There were some US government employees on the flight. Major Charles Dennis McKee and his intelligence team were flying back from Beirut. McKee, conspiracy theorists later said, had been targeted by Palestinian terrorists acting on behalf of Iran.

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The bomb was responsible for the deaths of 270 people.

PAUL LASHMAR



Flora Swire: On board

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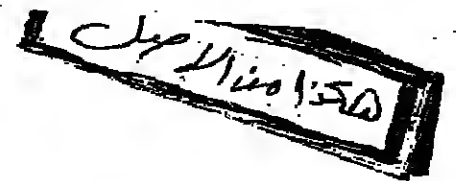


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Holocaust survivors get Nazi gold

MORE THAN £36m of gold looted by the Nazis will be distributed to Holocaust survivors worldwide, the Foreign Office revealed yesterday as it published the most definitive account to date of the whereabouts of the treasures. But it also revealed that the Vatican was one of the few organisations that has failed to respond to requests to open its archives to international scrutiny. Lord Mackay of Clashfern

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

published the final report of last year's London conference on Nazi Gold with a declaration that most countries had realised the importance of compensating victims of the concentration camps.

At the launch of the report, the Foreign Office revealed for the first time a detailed breakdown of those countries that

had given back their share of the gold recovered.

The United States has donated £15m to a special fund that will redistribute money to survivors in Europe. The UK has donated £1m, the Netherlands £6.1m, Austria £4.7m, Italy £4.3m, France £2m, Sweden, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Greece and Poland have offered a total of £1.5m. Luxembourg, Brazil, Argentina and Croatia have committed

themselves to about £1.4m, but have so far not donated any money.

The Foreign Office also revealed that the archives of the Tripartite Gold Commission, the postwar body set up to oversee the distribution of the gold, would be made public for the first time in the next few weeks. The 800-page report detailed the submissions of more than 42 countries that took part in the conference in London last

December. Lord Mackay, who chaired the conference, said that openness was one of the recurring themes of the event, but the Vatican had not complied fully. "There were a number of calls to the Holy See to open its wartime archives, which, it was suggested, might contain relevant information," he wrote in the report conclusions. "The Holy See delegation, which had made it clear from the outset that they were attending only

as observers, did not respond." When asked if he was calling on the Vatican to open its files, Lord Mackay said: "I have said there is a general need for openness. I will leave it at that."

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, called the conference as one of his first acts after Labour came to power last May. The Nazis stole gold worth an estimated £4.2bn at today's prices from Holocaust victims, often in the form of jewellery and even

fillings from concentration camp victims. The money was held in Swiss banks to fund the war effort.

Mr Cook welcomed the report. "When I opened the conference last year, I said that our aim was to shine a light in corners that had been kept dark for too long," he said. "The publication of the conference report today is another significant step towards achieving that aim." Lord Janner of Braun-

stone, QC, chairman of the Holocaust Educational Trust, said that the report was a permanent record of the "momentous, unique and historic" conference.

Crucially, the conference's detailed independent accounts had put pressure on nations to compensate survivors, particularly the agreement with the private Swiss banks to present \$1.25bn to survivors and their families, he said.

MISSING VISITOR



ENGLISH VISITOR
LAST SEEN ON CABBAGE BEACH
(NEAR GOLF COURSE)
AT 3pm. ON FRIDAY 21st August 1998

The killer lurking in paradise

PARADISE ISLAND in the Bahamas merits the marketing hyperbole. It has white sand beaches as soft as icing sugar, fringed with gently swaying palm trees. Its warm seas are a dazzling azure. The seafood is fresh and plentiful, and the rum is cheap.

The island is linked by bridge to the capital, Nassau, and its luxury resorts are popular with overseas tourists. But the brutal murders of two female holidaymakers have shattered its tranquil image. A serial killer is feared to be on the loose in paradise.

The grim discoveries were made yards apart in bushes behind Cabbage Beach, a secluded spot on the 800-acre island, last Saturday.

First, police found the body of Joanne Clarke, a missing 24-

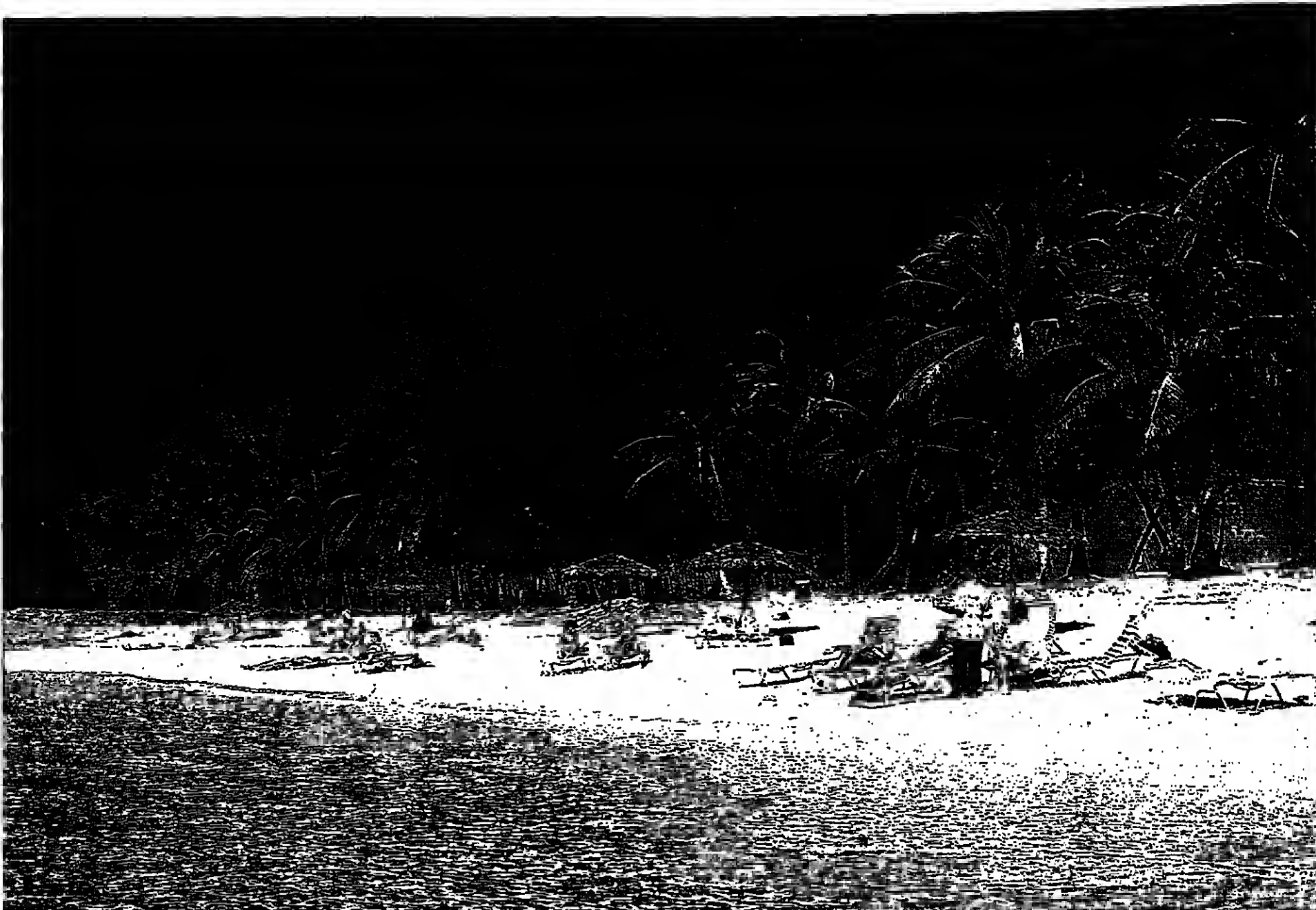
BY KATHY MARES

year-old British woman. An hour later, they came upon the decomposed remains of Lori Fogleman, 32, an American teacher who disappeared a month ago. Both had apparently been strangled.

The Bahamian authorities, mindful of the economy's dependence on foreign visitors, yesterday sought to play down safety fears.

Cornelius Smith, the Minister for Tourism, said the country was still peaceful. "There is no need to be alarmed," he said.

But hotels and businesses on Paradise Island, five miles long by half a mile wide, are jittery. Until now, the place has been virtually crime-free. Tourists had no qualms about leaving valuables on the beach while



Joanne Clarke (above left) whose body was found near Cabbage beach at Paradise Island (above) and triggered the fear of a serial killer on the loose World Pictures

taking a swim. The Bahamas have a low murder rate: less than 20 a year, for a population of 270,000. Most incidents are related to domestic disputes or robberies. Attacks on foreigners are relatively rare.

"This is not something that happens here," said Jessica Roberts, of the Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas. "We don't have serial killers in the Bahamas. Locals are in a

state of disbelief." Unfortunately for the country's reputation, the two bodies were found on the anniversary of the murder of another British woman, Carole Leach, a teacher who had been living on the neighbouring island of Eleuthera. That crime remains unsolved.

Yesterday, the British High Commission in Nassau was urgently reviewing its advice to

tourists in conjunction with the Foreign Office.

Phil Culligan, the Deputy High Commissioner, said more stringent precautions might be necessary. Police said it was not yet certain whether the two murders were connected.

Assistant Commissioner Reginald Ferguson said: "The bodies were found in close proximity, but that is the only similarity that we have ascer-

tained so far." Ms Clarke, from southern England, was in the middle of a three-week holiday in Nassau, staying with a local family. She went missing on Friday evening.

Neither she nor Ms Fogleman are believed to have been sexually assaulted.

The murders come as the Bahamas is trying to revive its flagging tourism industry in the face of competition from

cheaper Caribbean destinations such as Jamaica and the Dominican Republic.

Paradise Island and Cable Beach on Nassau are the two main destinations. The former is a mix of condominiums and upmarket resorts.

It is regarded as a playground for the rich, and former residents include Randolph Hearst, the newspaper magnate. Cindy Crawford, the su-

permodel, recently spent her honeymoon in a hotel on Cabbage Beach.

With its proximity to Nassau, it also attracts locals who escape the bustle of the city for an evening walk on the sands. But that is not a popular pursuit at the moment.

"It's not somewhere that we want to walk around by ourselves right now," said one of the locals Jessica Roberts.

Is there a doctor in the house, please?

PERFORMING ON the London stage has its downs as well as its ups for actors and dancers who tread the boards. A study of 20 West End productions found almost half the performers had suffered injuries and over 40 per cent of actors had been forced to miss at least one performance as a result.

The riskiest London show, it concludes, is *Starlight Express*, the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical performed on roller skates at breakneck speed.

The 21 performers reported an average of almost three injuries apiece. However, the production was also rated as the most physically demanding of the 12 plays and eight musicals surveyed.

The study, conducted in February 1996, rated *Tammy Steele* the next most risky show but it caused fewer injuries than other less physically demanding productions such as *Les Misérables* and *Blood Brothers*. *The Mousetrap*, rated as

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

among the least physically demanding shows, also had one of the lowest injury rates despite the fact that one cast member is murdered nightly on stage.

The survey of 269 cast members found women were at greater risk than men, probably because they wore high heels. Sprains and strains were the most common type of injury followed by neck and back injuries, with those playing the most physically demanding roles at three times the risk. At most one in 20 consulted an Ear, Nose and Throat specialist for a strained voice.

The findings, published in *Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, closely mirror those from a similar study of the risks of performing on Broadway in the US carried out in 1996. Dr Randolph Evans and colleagues from the University of Texas, who conducted



Cast members from *Starlight Express* suffer most injuries

both studies, say 60 per cent of the performers believed their most recent injury was preventable.

They say that raked stages, which slope towards the audience to give them a better view, increase the risks to the performers. One in five injuries was attributable to a raked

stage used by nine of the 20 London productions. They ranged in gradient from 4 per cent for *Les Misérables* to 10 per cent for *Starlight Express*.

Raked stages increase the risk of injury because performers have to accommodate a shift backwards in their centre of gravity. In the US, the Ac-

tors Equity Association has recommended a maximum slope of 7.5 per cent and has also started a physiotherapy programme.

In Britain, the actors' union Equity has specified that theatre companies must hire a "rake specialist" - usually a physiotherapist - to show ac-

tors how to work on sloping surface safely.

The authors say that the West End boasts some of the world's outstanding performers and offers "witty dialogue", "enthralling music" and "dazzling dancing".

But it comes at a cost. "Behind the glamour and glitz is a highly stressful workplace," they say. More attention should be paid to the health needs of performers and how to protect them from injury.

A spokeswoman for the Really Useful Group, producers of *Starlight Express*, said performers had to attend skate school before being admitted to the cast.

The show, which has been running since 1984, requires the actors to sing while skating at up to 35mph.

"The cast do very strenuous warm-ups every night starting with singing and then skating. Everyone has to do that," she said.

Deal to develop anti-obesity drug

AN ANTI-OBESITY treatment derived from a South African plant could storm the market for so-called "lifestyle drugs".

The American pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, which saw profits go up by 40 per cent within three months of launching Viagra, has signed a £24m licensing and development deal with Phytopharm, a British research company.

The potential market for anti-obesity drugs is vast with 85 million Americans alone suffering from obesity. It has been estimated that the direct cost of obesity in the US market is \$3bn a year and indirect costs - treatment for cardiovascular disease, diabetes and osteoarthritis - are \$75bn.

The appetite-reducing properties of the plant, whose identity is a closely guarded secret, were discovered last year by South African scientists. But the scientists say the drug,

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

named P57, will not suffer the problems that other anti-obesity drugs have done because it works in a different way.

Last year one of the most widely used appetite suppressants, fenfluramine was withdrawn because it caused heart problems.

Xenical, the first approved treatment for obesity that is not an appetite suppressant, can have unpleasant side-effects such as anal leakage if too much fat is absorbed.

The trials for P57 are at a very early stage and at the moment it is impossible to say what its side-effects might be, said the researchers.

"We are in the early stages of development and we can't say there are going to be no side-effects," said Dr Richard Dreyer, chief executive of Phytopharm.

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FOREIGN NEWS/9

Decline and fall of Yeltsin empire

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

THE REIGN of "Tsar" Boris Yeltsin has entered its twilight. His television appearance yesterday to explain why he had reappointed a prime minister whom he sacked only five months ago was not quite as humiliating as a prime-time confession to an affair with an intern. But it was bad enough. His choice of a premier who is widely disliked, and whose name is associated with fudge, economic decline, and cronyism, is a personal defeat.

Mr Yeltsin knows he will be seen as having buckled under the pressure of a narrow clique of oligarchs who exploited the privatisation of state assets to build vast fortunes - and subsequently used them to pressure the Kremlin to defend their interests. But the events of the last 36 hours may also mark a larger watershed in the rule of Mr Yeltsin, a seven year helter-skelter ride in which he has veered across the political spectrum, from autocrat to rough-hewn democrat.

The snow-haired man who in 1991 stood on a tank outside the White House, flourishing his democratic credentials in the face of drunken Communist coup plotters, also launched war in Chechnya, surrounded himself with hardliners, and used tanks to bombard a recalcitrant parliament. Exhausted by hard-living, heart trouble and the task of trying to pilot the country through the post-Soviet chaos, this same man may now have concluded that it is time to ease his way out.

"It looks like the President is starting to withdraw from office step by step, handing over power to the heir," said his arch-enemy Mikhail Gorbachev. For once, the former Soviet leader's views did not sound purely like sour grapes. Mr Yeltsin loves power, and is a master at centralising it in the Kremlin. He is also incorrigibly unpredictable, whether in his ludicrous exploits - drunkenly conducting an orchestra in Berlin, pinching a secretary - or in politics. He proved that yet again last Sunday, sacking his government at the height of a fiscal crisis, adding political chaos and limbo to the economic maelstrom. What he does today, he can - and



Russian President Boris Yeltsin making a television broadcast in which he presented Premier Victor Chernomyrdin as his successor in elections due in 2000

often does - undo tomorrow. Witness the case of Anatoly Chubais, his financial trouble-shooter whom he has sacked three times. In addition, the zealous Sergei Kiriyenko was almost certainly fired because he was construed as a threat to the oligarchs' empires - which are rooted in energy, banking and the media. Several feared his government would allow

their banks to collapse, unable to pay vast foreign debts. But, having bankrolled Mr Yeltsin's election campaign in 1996, they appear to have called in the favour by demanding a compliant prime minister.

Yet signs are beginning to surface which suggest Mr Yeltsin may now have accepted his rule is winding down. The well-connected Ekho Moskvi radio sta-

tion quoted sources saying Viktor Chernomyrdin had insisted, as a condition of his return to office, that he has the right to appoint the head of the "power ministries" - the Interior Ministry, the Federal Security Service and the Ministry of Defence. No one understands the importance of retaining control over the security forces better than Mr Yeltsin. If the story

is true, then it amounts to a significant reduction of his powers. In his speech to the nation yesterday, the President clearly appointed Mr Chernomyrdin as his preferred successor in the election of 2000. His departure cannot come too soon for his growing army of critics, whose ranks embrace the majority of Russians, almost all the lower house of parliament, and



1996: Dancing on election trail

1994: Too ill to leave plane at Shannon to see Irish Prime Minister

1995: Pinching a female employee

plenty of enraged international investors, who view Mr Chernomyrdin's appointment as the kiss of death to Russia's efforts to make the transition to a healthy market economy.

They point to the evidence that he is no longer up to the job. Although he appeared to recover well from the quintuple coronary bypass in late 1996, questions have repeatedly arisen over his mental state. This theme has a bleak familiarity for Mr Yeltsin, who these days appears far older than his 67 years. He has long been prone to bouts of depression and withdrawal, and has openly admitted to "dark thoughts". A best-selling account by his former bodyguard Alexander Korzhakov claimed that Mr Yeltsin had twice tried to commit suicide by leaping in the Moscow river and locking himself in a steam bath.

There is certainly little doubt that he had a nervous breakdown when he was banished by Mr Gorbachev to the Soviet construction ministry in 1987. Although he has retained a gift for

springing political surprises, the number of embarrassments has grown.

During a trip to Sweden late last year, he appeared unsure of where he was, and seemed to think Germany and Japan possessed nuclear arsenals. Last Friday, he appeared to refer to the US attacks on Sudan and Afghanistan as an "act of terrorism". And only three days before the government announced its decision to devalue the rouble last Monday, Mr Yeltsin was publicly declaring that devaluation "won't happen ... It is not a question of what I think, of my own fantasies, of what I do or do not want to see. It is all calculated."

True, this may have been a last-ditch attempt to build confidence in the beleaguered currency; but it is as likely that he was simply out of touch. After all, he had been on holiday for five weeks despite a rapidly worsening political crisis.

How long he will stay in the Kremlin now depends on several factors. He is mindful of his

place in history, which will at least give him credit for holding the first democratic transfer of power in Russia for a thousand years. He will want to be sure that Mr Chernomyrdin stands a strong chance of succeeding him, and will defend the interests of the ruling elite that has evolved during the Yeltsin years. This could conceivably mean striking a deal with the Communist-nationalist opposition which includes rewriting the constitution to allow the president to be appointed not by popular vote, but by parliament.

And much rests on the advice of the so-called Kremlin "Family", dominated by his daughter and image-maker, Tatyana, and his chief of staff, Valentin Yumashev. As Russians look on with bewilderment as the Kremlin staggers from one disaster to another, there are plenty who hope that the old man's aides will now gently tap him on the shoulder, and point to the door.

Rupert Cornwell, Review, page 5

US put on defensive over Sudan attack

THE US evidence for bombing a factory in the suburbs of Khartoum was a sample of chemical used for making VX nerve gas, according to the US administration.

"I have no question, the intelligence community has no question, that the factory was used to manufacture a chemical used in making nerve gas," the National Security Adviser, Sandy Berger, said.

The chemical - an ethyl-methyl-phosphorus compound, according to *Newsweek* magazine - has no use in the production of pharmaceuticals, reports said. The US would not say how it had obtained samples of the chemical, citing security concerns.

Berger said: "We have physical evidence of that fact, but we are not going to release it."

The Sudanese government and the staff at the factory have protested that it was a factory making drugs for use in Sudan and for export, including anti-malaria, anti-parasite and other treatments. It had a contract to produce medicines for export to Iraq.

Since the US has refused to discuss its evidence, and Sudan has been willing to allow journalists to explore the factory's remains, there is suspicion that the US made a mistake, or

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

deliberately attacked a civilian facility.

Sudan has protested to the United Nations, and wants an independent team to visit the site to verify that it was not a chemical weapons plant.

The United States last night bluntly told the Security Council it would have no business launching an investigation of its missile attack.

Ambassador Peter Burtleigh said after a brief meeting of the Council in New York: "Putting together a technical team to confirm something that we already know would seem to have very little point to us."

Sudan had suggested that "a neutral respected person like ex-president Carter" could lead an investigation team.

A report in the Arabic press last year suggested that Ayman al-Zawahiri, a leader of Egyptian Islamic Jihad, met Sudan's Islamic leader, Hasan al-Turabi, regarding the plant.

They decided to find new financing to develop its chemical and bacterial weapons-producing facilities. US reports suggested the plant had a secure perimeter and was patrolled by Sudanese military.

The US launched cruise

missile attacks on camps in Afghanistan and the factory in Sudan within two weeks of bombings at its embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

The operation, code-named Infante Reach, was so secret that even staff within the office of the US Defense Secretary William Cohen were not aware of it, according to *Newsweek*.

The scale of the damage suffered by the US in the 7 August bombings has also become clearer. The US embassy in Nairobi contained not just a CIA station, but was the key to America's electronic intelligence gathering operation in east Africa, *Jane's Intelligence Review* reported. It was also the operational control centre for the US Army's Central Command in the region.

At the time of the bombings, the CIA staff based in the embassy were focused on investigating ties between Iraq and Sudan, especially with regard to the dispersal of Iraq's manufacture of weapons of mass destruction, the report said.

Among the dead after the embassy bombing were military personnel, including one who had received training in Arabic before being sent to Nairobi. Reports in Washington said at the time that CIA personnel had been killed in the

bombing, and that Nairobi and Dar es Salaam were two of the few remaining CIA stations in sub-Saharan Africa.

The details emerging of the attack suggest the bombing was carefully planned to hit back at the CIA, which has been conducting a covert war against Osama bin Laden for at least 18 months. Bin Laden is accused by the US of organising the two embassy bombings in East Africa. It is reported to have mounted two arrest attempts, one in March this year, the other in the middle of 1997.

If the embassy was indeed hosting all of the intelligence functions ascribed to it, it is the most devastating attack on US intelligence since the Beirut embassy was destroyed in 1983. The information would also help to explain why the US military was so anxious to prevent anyone from entering the embassy after the bombing.

Britain yesterday responded to demands to expel Islamic "fanatics" by promising new powers in the autumn to tackle terrorist fund-raisers and supporters living in the UK.

Officials said new powers would be proposed for the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, to expel "terrorist" sympathisers using Britain as a haven.

John Pilger, Review, page 4

Bid to save bomb boy's sight

THE FATHER of a 15-year-old boy who suffered severe eye injuries in the bombing of the US embassy in Nairobi said yesterday he was praying that British doctors could save his son's sight.

Stanley Matuma, unable to see since he was injured by flying glass in the blast, arrived at Moorfields Eye Hospital in central London, where he was examined by consultants. His father, Alphonse Mu-

ranga, a civil servant for the Inland Revenue in Nairobi, said from the hospital: "I am praying that the doctors can restore his sight. I would like to thank all those who helped to bring Stanley to Moorfields and pay the expenses."

The youngster, who is one of four children, looked tired and bewildered as he was gently guided into the hospital by his father. Consultant Mr Zdenek

Gregor, who has close links with Kiluyu Hospital in Nairobi where Stanley was first treated, hopes to operate on one of Stanley's eyes in the next couple of days.

Mr Alexander Heroy, UK director of the African Medical and Research Foundation, which raised funds for the trip, said: "Stanley's case is urgent and we hope his sight can be saved by the modern equipment that London can offer."



Matuma: Blinded in Kenyan explosion

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Burmese students defy the military

STUDENT PROTESTS erupted in the Burmese capital Rangoon yesterday for the first time since 1996. The demonstration outside Rangoon University was an act of defiance at a time when the military is on full alert to thwart pro-democracy activity.

As the protest was broken up by baton-wielding soldiers, Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel prize winner and opposition leader, ended her stand-off with the authorities at a tiny bridge at Anyarsu. She and three colleagues had camped in a minivan for 12 days on the bridge, 20 miles from the capital, after attempting to leave Rangoon to see members of her party.

It was not known last night whether Ms Suu Kyi had been forced to return to Rangoon or whether she ended the protest voluntarily. Members of her party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), had issued a statement urging her to return. The military ended her previous attempt to leave the capital by force, after she was deprived of food and water for six days at the same location.

On this occasion the democracy leader had sufficient supplies of food and water, though she has been suffering problems with her kidneys and has a mild form of jaundice.

The student protest, supported by the NLD, consisted of some 150 demonstrators chanting pro-democracy slogans at a road junction close to the university's main entrance.

Protesters called for an end to the military government and for the convening of a parliament elected in 1990 when the NLD's landslide victory at the polls was ignored by the junta. The authorities allowed the

BY DAVID BEER
in Rangoon

demonstration to continue for just over an hour before soldiers charged. Protesters and on-lookers dispersed, fearing a repetition of the brutal ending of the 1996 protests and the massacre which followed the 1988 pro-democracy uprising.

The authorities have been on alert for the past few days because of fears that demonstrations would mark the 10th anniversary of the 1988 massacre and because the NLD set a deadline last Friday for the recovering of the elected parliament.

Ms Suu Kyi may well have returned to take part in a symbolic recall of parliament planned by the NLD which is supposed to take place in "the next few days". Members of other parties and representatives of Burma's many ethnic groups are believed to have been holding talks with the NLD on the parliament.

Two NLD representatives held a meeting with Tin Hsiao, the minister of home affairs yesterday. This follows meetings at a more senior level, and, to date, represents the junta's sole concession to opposition pressure.

Mounting international pressure on the junta is making little impression on the regime. However, the economic situation is deteriorating fast and there are no signs that the government has a strategy for reviving the economy.

A Myanmar Airways internal flight disappeared yesterday while en route from Rangoon to Tachilek, near the Thai border. The Fokker F27 plane was carrying 39 passengers and 4 crew when contact was lost.

Floods kill 550 and devastate harvest in Bangladesh



Villagers from Kalma, near Dhaka, swim in floodwaters as they try to get money from relief teams moving by boat. The floods have killed at least 550 people

Reuters

BANGLADESH appealed yesterday for international help to deal with a devastating flood that has caused 550 deaths and disrupted the lives of 20 million people. The cabinet of the Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina

Wajed, asked for assistance to cope with the damage, estimated at \$220m (£139.2m).

The government said it lacked food and medicine. Funds were also needed to reclaim agricultural land, for housing

material, to rebuild and repair schools, for roads and rail tracks and for dredging rivers.

Since the floods began last month, all the country's rivers have overflowed, submerging 60 per cent of the land. Crops,

roads, railways and homes were washed away or destroyed. About 100,000 people are reported ill with diarrhoea and at least 65 have died from water-borne diseases.

Weather experts said the

flooding may continue until the middle of September when the seasonal monsoon rains end. Bangladesh, a delta region, is plagued by floods every year that claim many lives and cause widespread damage to the in-

frastructure. Last night the army was called in to try to save an embankment in Dhaka, the capital, that had started to be breached. Officials said yesterday that more than half the city was already under water.

Australia accused of East Timor cover-up

THE AUSTRALIAN government

has faced renewed pressure yesterday to start an inquiry into the killing of five journalists during Indonesia's 1975 invasion of East Timor after a newspaper reported that the Australian foreign ministry knew the attack was coming.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* claims it has evidence that the Australian embassy in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, knew Indonesia was about to invade East Timor and did nothing to warn the journalists.

The paper said the Department of Foreign Affairs was briefed in detail by Indonesian of-

BY JOANNA JOLLY
in Sydney

ficials on the plans for their attack on the village of Balibo three days before it occurred.

The report says the attack was part of an invasion by about 3,200 troops intended to wrest control of all East Timor, and not a border skirmish as the Australian department portrays it. It claims key documents about the East Timor crisis of 1974-5 have gone missing from the department.

The allegations coincide with a call by the Australian section of the International Com-

mission of Jurists for a federal judicial inquiry into the deaths.

The five, including Britons Malcolm Rennie and Brian Peters, were killed in Balibo in October 1975. Charred bone fragments, said to be the remains of the journalists, were removed and buried in Jakarta.

A 1996 government-commissioned report into the affair, chaired by Tom Sherman, former head of the National Crime Authority, concluded that the journalists were killed in fighting by an "attacking force" of Indonesian irregular troops and East Timorese under Indonesian officers.

The Indonesian government has said the Sherman report does not contradict its position that the five were killed in crossfire. But both *The Sydney Morning Herald* and the International Committee of Jurists say there is evidence the journalists were killed by Indonesian forces in Portuguese-style camouflage uniforms.

Portugal ruled East Timor before the Indonesian invasion. The *Sydney Morning Herald* says the foreign ministry knew the journalists were outside the port of Dili, but made no effort to check if Australians were in the attack

zone. It did not inform the embassy in Jakarta in time for them to intervene with the Indonesian leadership.

Australia is the only Western country to recognise Indonesian sovereignty over East Timor. The Deputy Prime Minister, Tim Fischer, said yesterday he was satisfied there had been no restriction on access to foreign ministry files during the compilation of the Sherman report.

Rodney Lewis, of the Australian arm of the International Committee of Jurists, said the Sherman report was inadequate and did not take into account all the information

available. "What we want is a full federal judicial inquiry with the power to require witnesses to give evidence and documents to be produced," he said.

Mr Lewis said the 20-year delay in compiling a report had been "unreasonable". He added: "There seemed to be clear available evidence that the Indonesians intended to kill the journalists, which Mr Sherman didn't deal with. One of the witnesses said he spoke to an Indonesian officer the night before the action and he told that they had malice against the journalists and they intended to deal with them."

Woman puts cyanide in free gifts

A 60-YEAR-OLD woman was arrested outside a Los Angeles post office as she tried to mail dozens of cyanide sachets disguised as promotional samples for a nutrition supplement.

Police said yesterday that a disaster was averted only thanks to the alertness of the

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Los Angeles

public, a number of whom became alarmed when they saw the woman sitting in her car in rubber gloves, pouring white powder into sachets and preparing them for posting.

"Had this stuff gone into the mail, we would have had mass murder," Sheriff Sherman Block said, after the woman, Kathryn Schoonover, was behind bars.

The sachets of sodium cyanide were accompanied by a brochure for one of a variety of nutrition products sold either

to boost energy or to promote weight loss. Most of the 100-odd envelopes were addressed to people in southern California, although some lived as far afield as Albany, New York.

Police said there was no obvious pattern to the intended victims.

IN BRIEF

Eight killed on Mount Blanc

EIGHT mountaineers have been killed on slopes of Mount Blanc in south-east France over 48 hours, police said. Freezing rain was blamed for the accidents. Two Germans and a Hungarian were among the dead.

Hidden victims of war in Kosovo

MISSING PEOPLE are the "hidden victims" of the war in Serbia's Kosovo province, according to a new report by Amnesty International, highlighting the plight of many Albanians "disappeared" at the hands of Serb police and Serbs abducted by the Kosovo Liberation Army.

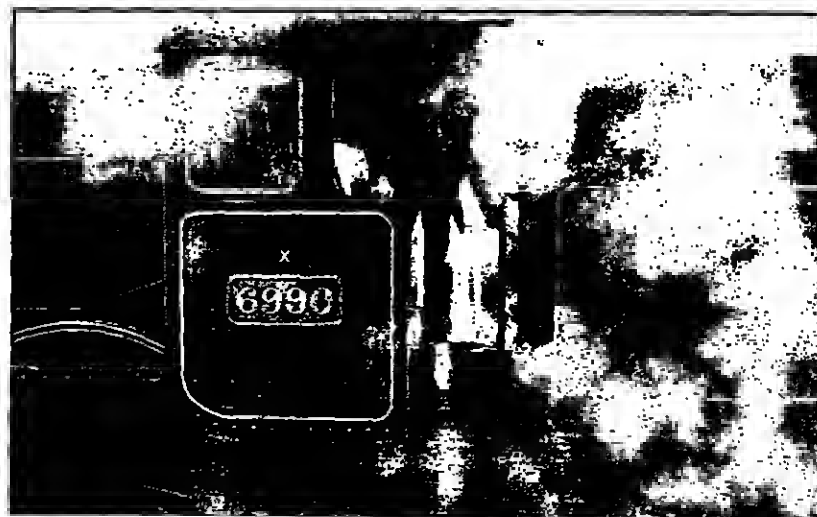
Union victory in Hyundai dispute

A PROLONGED labour dispute at Hyundai Motor Co ended with a controversial deal seen as a major victory for South Korea's militant unions. After shedding 6,100 workers early this year, Hyundai wanted to lay off 1,538 more. Under the compromise, it was allowed to lay off only 277 workers.

Militants blamed for station blast

SEVERAL PEOPLE were feared killed when a bomb exploded at a railway station in Guwahati, in India's north-eastern state of Assam. Militant separatists are blamed for the blast.

THE INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPH



Steam Train by Tom Pilston

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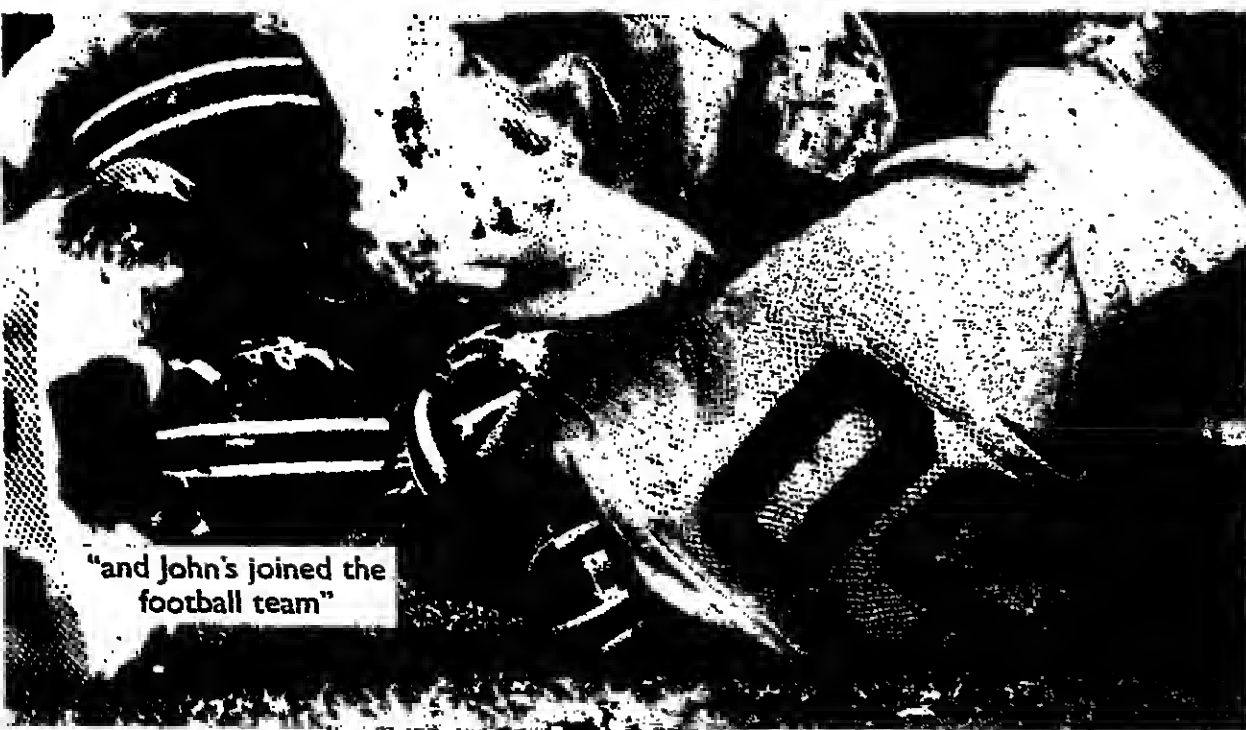
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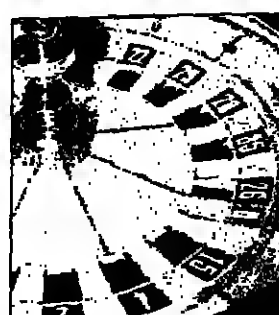
BRIEFING

Budgens bosses cash in options

JOHN VON SPRECKELEN, chief executive of Budgens supermarket group, made £350,000 from the exercise of share options last year, the company's annual report shows. His pay rose from £242,000 to £264,000. Graham Rigby, the finance director, and Christian Williams, the executive director, both made £220,000 on share options.

Mr von Spreckelsen said yesterday that, contrary to some reports that he was in line to become chief executive of Booker, the cash-and-carry chain in merger talks with Somerfield, he knew "of no shortlist" for the job.

Ladbroke completes US purchase



LADBROKE, the hotels and betting group, yesterday completed its acquisition of Colorado Gaming and Entertainment of the US for \$97m (£53m) following approval by the Colorado Gaming Control Commission. Ladbroke said the payment included \$3m of debt. The completion of the sale comes ahead of Ladbroke's results on Thursday, which analysts say will show a strong rise in interim profits.

Colorado Gaming is the largest casino management company in Colorado, and owns three limited-stakes casinos. Its earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation were \$12.7m in the year to 31 December. Ladbroke is still awaiting a decision from the UK competition authorities on its £363m purchase of the Coral betting chain from Bass.

Pearson sells Flextech TV stake

PEARSON, the media group whose interests range from Madame Tussaud's to the Financial Times, yesterday sold its remaining stake in the pay-television company Flextech for £27.6m. Flextech shares closed up 13.5p at 577.5p after the announcement. Pearson gained 25p to 1,055p.

Pearson's chief executive, Marjorie Scardino, said in March that the sale of the Flextech interests was likely this year as part of the media group's move to dispose of peripheral businesses. Pearson acquired the 5.6 per cent stake in April 1997 when it sold its interests in the television channels UK Gold and UK Living to Flextech.

Yesterday's placing of 4.8 million shares with institutional investors at 575p each by broker Merrill Lynch takes the total proceeds to £51.8m, Pearson said.

Airbus beats Boeing to win £6.9bn BA short-haul order

BRITISH AIRWAYS is set to announce today that the European aircraft manufacturer Airbus Industrie has beaten arch-rival Boeing of the US to an airliner order worth up to £6.9bn.

The order, of up to 200 short-haul aircraft, is a major coup for Airbus, marking the first time the four-nation consortium has won a commission from the UK's biggest airline.

It is also a major blow for Boeing, which until today had been the dominant supplier to BA.

Sources close to the deal said in Paris yesterday that BA was set to lodge an initial order for up to 59 aircraft, worth more than £600m, with options to

buy as many as 200. The planes will be used on BA's European short-haul routes from Manchester and Birmingham.

The sources said that the contract could be worth up to \$1.1bn (£6.9bn) if all the options were exercised.

The deal will be announced today at Airbus' headquarters in Toulouse, attended by Tony Blair, Prime Minister, who is on holiday near by. He is expected to welcome the deal as a boost for the UK and European defence industry.

BA is understood to have chosen a latest Airbus A320s over the latest version of Boeing's 737, the biggest-selling

airliner, to replace its European short-haul fleet. Airbus - by British Aerospace, France's Aerospatiale, Germany's Dasa and Casa of Spain - and Boeing have been fighting a fierce war over the order since February when BA first announced the competition.

Although the airline invited the two firms to come up with innovative financing ideas to lessen the cost of buying the planes, sources close to the company said that solutions such as leasing were not part of the deal.

Engines for the BA's new A320s are expected to come from the International Air Engines Consortium, which includes Rolls-Royce, and is

offering a model known as V2500 - or an alliance of General Electric of the US and Snecma of France, which makes the CFM56.

Airbus is likely to hail its victory in the race to replace BA's European fleet as proof that it is eating into its US arch-rival's market share.

According to recent figures, Boeing is still the leader in the global market for civilian aircraft, but Airbus is catching up fast. Last year Airbus won 45 per cent of new orders, compared with around 30 per cent in recent times.

Separately, speculation was mounting yesterday that Boeing was set to win a BA order for a number of Boeing



Tony Blair will break his holiday to be at Toulouse

777 long-haul aircraft at the expense of existing orders for 747s.

Industry sources said that BA was preparing to cancel the

remaining orders for the big 400-seat jumbo seats and switch instead to the smaller 777s, which seats around 300 passengers. BA already operates 18 Boeing 777s and has a further 11 on order.

The sources said that BA's decision to overhaul its fleet was driven by the need to maximise yield (or profit) per passenger and avoid leaving empty seats on planes.

The move follows the lifting of strict regulations on a number of routes, including trips to the US, which will enable airlines to run more frequent flights.

British Aerospace shares rose by 15p to 420p. British Airways were up by 8.5p to 496.5p.

Allied Domecq warns of £181m charge

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

ALLIED DOMECQ, the spirits group which includes Teacher's whisky and Beefeater gin, revealed yesterday that its full year profits will be hit by higher than expected exceptional charges and currency costs totalling £181m.

The company said currency fluctuations will knock £30m off profits in the full year, in line with the £20m effect in the first half. But Allied revealed a host of additional exceptional charges including a £45m deficit arising from a five-yearly valuation of the pub estate; a £30m loss from the revaluation of short leasehold pubs and £40m of other losses including losses of the disposal of Glenageary Spring water and a £20m goodwill write off on the proposed merger of its Victoria Wine off-licence chain with Whitebread's Threshers' division. In addition to the new charges there will be a £36m deficit arising from a previously announced debt redemption premium.

News of the costs overshadowed a trading statement which the company claimed showed it was still on track despite the strong pound, the Asian crisis and the effects of the poor British summer.

Trading in the 11 months to 31 July has been "broadly as expected", the company said. The key spirits and wine division is on track for modest growth in the second half except in Asia where the principal impact has been on the duty free business.

Ballantine's whisky has grown volumes in most European markets while Beefeater gin has grown strongly in Spain. US volumes have been recovering after the de-stocking by retailers earlier in the year.

In retailing, UK pub profits have been hit by the poor summer weather. In the Dunkin' Donuts and Baskin-Robbins franchise business, international operations have been hit by the turmoil in Asia though sales are strong in America.

Allied Domecq shares closed 2p lower at 538p.



The first phase of expansion will raise Luton Airport's capacity to 5 million passengers a year

Luton Airport wins £100m cash boost

A DEAL worth £100m was signed yesterday between the public and private sectors to transform Luton Airport and create thousands of new jobs, writes Terry Macalister.

A 30-year concession has been signed by the airport's owner, Luton Borough Council, with a British/American consortium of banks and investors.

Barclays Private Equity has taken a 32.5 per cent stake, along with Barclays UK Infrastructure Fund plus Airport Group International (25 per cent) and Bechtel Enterprises (10 per cent).

A newly created management company, London Luton

Airport Operations, will immediately take over employment of all staff.

The airport handled a record 3.4 million passengers in the year to 31 March. The first phase of the development programme will expand the airport to handle up to 5 million passengers a year.

This is said to be the first occasion on which a private/public partnership of this kind has been created to fund airport development.

Frank Pullman, the chief executive of the airport, said that the deal would allow London Luton Airport to meet the travel demands of the future.

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Head hunters target Goldman staff

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

HEADHUNTERS are targeting staff at Goldman Sachs in an attempt to exploit the uncertainty about who will benefit most in the imminent flotation of the investment bank.

Sources inside the bank say that headhunters are trying to prise staff away by playing on fears that they have lost out in the share allocation due to be announced within the next few weeks.

"They have been telephoning staff and saying they've heard that they haven't done as well as so-and-so; would they like to move?" said one bank insider.

Staff have been deliberately kept in the dark about the float. The precise mechanics have been kept tightly within a very small coterie immediately surrounding John Corzine, the co-chairman.

In the absence of firm information, insiders say internal speculation about who will be the winners and losers has been rife.

In an attempt to overcome opposition to the float, Corzine agreed to ensure that the shares were distributed as widely as possible and not restricted to partners.

He has stressed that ordinary employees would also be entitled to some of the shares.

However, he has failed so far to explain on what the criteria for the allocation would be.

Goldman has come under fire for recent weeks for using the promise of big windfalls from the share offer to lure major hitters from other firms.

The only major scalp Goldman has claimed is Michael Carr, co-head of mergers and acquisitions at Salomon Smith Barney.

An attempt to lure Jack Grubman - Salomon's top-rated telecoms analyst - failed after his existing employer agreed to match Goldman's \$25m offer.

Salomon's head Deryck Maughan phoned Mr Corzine last week to complain about Goldman's attempts to poach key staff.

Western markets braced for Russian debt terms

HOPES OF an early resolution to the Russian financial crisis were fading last night despite reassurances from Russia's new Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, that a \$400bn debt restructuring package would not discriminate against foreigners.

Meetings between Russian officials and Western bankers hit by last week's surprise moratorium on payments were still going on late last night, despite assurances that the new government would honour the commitment of its predecessor to agree a new package by yesterday.

Sources said that the terms hammered out by officials had been submitted to the new Prime Minister. "It is on Mr Chernomyrdin's desk said one source last night.

The deal affects short-term Russian treasury bills known as GECOs and OFZs, and some margin calls on futures contracts guaranteed by the Russian foreign exchange market.

The Russians were forced to withdraw earlier proposals last week under pressure from foreign investors who claimed that the proposals would be discriminatory.

Commentators said yesterday that the Russians had to establish some degree of seniority of the debt so that the foreign investors involved could know

where they stood.

The crisis, which deepened after the shock decision by President Yeltsin to sack the Prime Minister, Mr Sergei Kiriyenko, and his entire cabinet on Sunday night continued to weigh heavily on the Russian market.

The rouble slid further to 7.14 to the dollar from 7.0050 on Friday. Shares, however, were up by the Moscow Times Index showed a gain of 2.39 points to 58.14.

Analysts said foreign investors hoped that the return of 60-year-old Mr Chernomyrdin, only four months after he was fired to make way for Mr Kiriyenko, would give some solidity to the government

and make it easier to push through vital-needed economic and financial reforms.

Although hostile to the measures proposed by pro-Western reforms for liberalising the economy, Mr Chernomyrdin, a former head of the giant Gazprom gas group, was one of the few politicians able to command the support of the Duma (the Russian parliament), which has dragged its feet over reform.

However, a definitive assessment of the new government's economic credentials will have to wait until the other members of the new cabinet are announced. "It is all the old control freaks," one observer complained.

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AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

BLUES camps rallied after Friday's ragged retreat. Footsie ended 78.7 points higher at 5,533.7 helped by American influences which offset worries about the Far East, Russia and Latin America. Hopes of takeover action also offered a little inspiration. Second and third-line shares failed to join the rally.

HSBC reflected the strength of the Hong Kong market where heavy government buying produced a 4.2 per cent advance. The shares gained 85p to 1,374p.

Derek Patn, page 17

NEW YORK

THE DOW JONES industrial average was down 3.34 at 8,530.31 at noon (5pm BST) after giving back an early 85-point gain that temporarily wiped out Friday's 77-point loss.

Broad-market indicators were mixed as investors, shaken by Friday's decline, used the opening bounce to pull some money off the table. Friday's sell-off was sparked by fears that the economic crisis in Asia and Russia is spreading into Latin America.

TOKYO

STOCKS tumbled amid concern about delays in government efforts to clean up Japan's bad debt-ridden banking system. The dollar jumped against the yen.

The Nikkei 225 dropped below the psychologically-significant 15,000-point level for the first time in a week, falling 309.84 points, or 2.03 per cent, to close at 14,988.36. Political uncertainty surrounds the government's plans to clean up the banking system while opposition parties have vowed to fight what they call a waste of public money.

HONG KONG

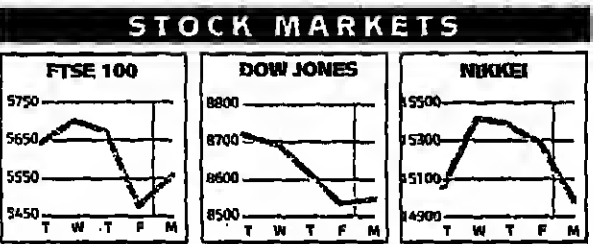
THE Hong Kong government intervened in the stock markets for the sixth consecutive session.

Traders said government buying of blue chips and futures contracts sent the market soaring, offsetting bearish factors ranging from the weaker Japanese yen and Russian turmoil to grim domestic economic data expected this week. The Hang Seng Index gained 317.37 points, or 4.2 per cent, to finish at 7,845.48.

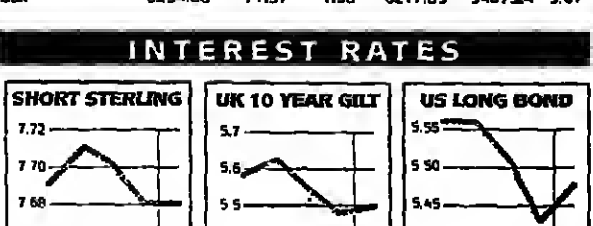
KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYSIA'S Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange Composite Index lost 2.1 per cent, or 8.66 points, to 317.30, after falling to a 10-year low of 309.63.

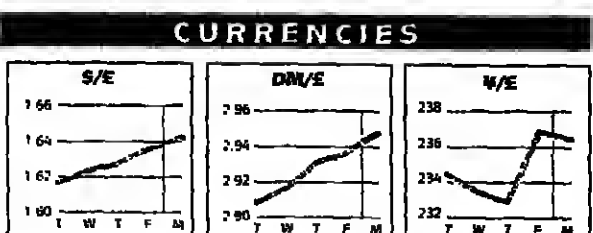
Dealers said 300 was a strong psychological support level, and local funds caused the partial rebound in the afternoon, picking up cheap blue-chip issues. The gloom deepened on comments by Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim that hopes for a rapid regional economic recovery had faded.



Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk High	52 wk Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5593.70	-76.70	-1.40	6183.70	4382.90	3.97
FTSE 250	5056.00	-18.50	-0.37	5970.50	4428.30	4.00
FTSE 350	2460.20	-28.40	-1.06	2969.10	2161.80	3.98
FTSE All Share	2584.18	-25.51	-1.00	2886.52	2104.59	3.96
FTSE SmallCap	2289.30	-9.30	-0.41	2793.80	2231.60	3.68
FTSE Floating	1271.20	-4.20	-0.33	1512.10	1229.20	4.09
FTSE AIM	978.10	-12.50	-1.26	1146.90	965.90	1.39
FTSE ERLC 100	969.33	-1.11	-0.11			
Dow Jones	8544.21	-10.56	-0.12	9367.84	6971.32	1.74
Nikkei	14988.36	-309.84	-2.03	18866.79	14488.21	1.02
Hang Seng	7843.48	-317.87	-4.32	13704.08	6544.79	5.22
Dax	5234.86	-71.37	-1.36	6217.83	3487.24	3.07



Index	3 months	6 months	1 year	10 year	30 year	Yr chg
UK	7.75	0.44	7.63	0.06	5.50	-1.81
US	5.69	-0.03	5.69	-0.34	5.29	-1.10
Japan	0.64	0.07	0.65	-0.02	1.43	-0.86
Germany	3.48	0.21	3.68	0.04	4.26	-1.46



Index	3 months	6 months	1 year	10 year	30 year	Yr chg
Dollar	1.6408	+0.54c	1.6077			
D-Mark	2.9449	+0.63p	2.9058			
Yen	236.12	-11.21	190.80			
£ index	105.40	+0.40	101.70			
S index	115.10	+0.10	105.50			

Index	3 months	6 months	1 year	10 year	30 year	Yr chg
Brent Oil (\$)	12.08	-0.01	18.34			
Gold (\$)	285.05	-0.23	324.75			
Silver (\$)	5.16	0.00	4.50			

Source: Bloomberg

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.7149	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.97
Austria (schillings)	20.09	Netherlands (guilder)	3.2237
Belgium (francs)	59.06	New Zealand (\$)	3.7864
Canada (\$)	2.4587	Norway (krone)	12.35
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8348	Portugal (escudos)	290.70
Denmark (krone)	10.95	Saudi Arabia (rials)	9.9576
Finland (markka)	8.7489	Singapore (\$)	2.7160
France (francs)	9.5922	Spain (pesetas)	241.93
Germany (marks)	2.8700	South Africa (rand)	9.9196
Greece (drachma)	479.80	Sweden (krone)	13.05
Hong Kong (\$)	12.28	Switzerland (francs)	2.3967
Ireland (pounds)	1.1364	Thailand (bahts)	60.98
India (rupees)	63.85	Turkey (liras)	435778
Israel (shekels)	5.6099	USA (\$)	1.5969
Italy (lira)	2835		
Japan (yen)	232.05		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.5012		
Malta (lira)	0.6221		

Rates for indicative purposes only
Source: Thomas Cook

Bank grapples with poor morale

ALL ORGANISATIONS, even the most successful, have their disaffected souls, those who constantly moan and groan about how awful things are. But right now the Bank of England seems to be suffering from a surplus of the problem. The City is alive with talk of plunging morale and threatened departures. There is said to be a feeling of loss of purpose and direction which is causing quite a number of the Bank's loyal and long serving officials to seek an early exit.

To some extent all this is just loose talk, the result of late summer boredom. Apart from trouble with the rouble, there's not much else to speculate about. What's happening with the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street makes as good a subject as any. But there is also an element of truth in it all.

Indeed it would actually be quite surprising if there wasn't. There are any number of good reasons for the Bank's staff to feel fed up. For starters, the Bank of England has recently been ripped apart, with responsibility for banking supervision parceled out to the new Financial Services Authority, and with it, most of the Bank's staff.

Supervision always used to be



OUTLOOK

thought of as the least glamorous bit of the Bank to work in. Actually supervision is not as dull and boring as it might seem (there are all those trips to Basle to look for forward for starters), but it is the part that would persistently get it in the neck. Supervision tends only to get publicly when there is a banking failure, which by extension is invariably regarded as failure in regulation.

But then you never know what you've got until it's gone, do you? And now supervision is gone, everyone misses it. Those chaps in supervision weren't too bad after all; at least in the old days there were more people to talk to.

What's more, responsibility for

supervision added to the Bank's prestige and authority in the City. It was a large part of the Governor's eye brows, the Bank's ability to influence affairs more generally in the financial community, and a major part of its intelligence network.

All this was predicted by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, when Gordon Brown surprised everyone with the formation of the FSA shortly after giving the Bank its independence. One minute Mr George was celebrating independence, the next he was contemplating resignation over loss of half his empire.

But this is only part of the Bank's present identity crisis. The other is that responsibility for monetary policy has been placed with a committee which is often not perceived to be wholly a part of the Bank at all, since it is half made up of outside economists. On the other hand, the Bank does very much get the blame for an unpopular policy. This is something new in the Bank, a reversal of roles. In the old days it was always possible for the Bank to say the decision on interest rates was the Chancellor's, and better still, that if the Chancellor had followed the Governor's advice, the economy

wouldn't be in such a mess. Now it's the other way round.

Worse, the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee has also been forced grudgingly to admit that it got policy wrong in the early months of the new Government, that if it had put up interest rates more rapidly then, the pain might now be over. If all this were not bad enough, there's also the spectre of the European Central Bank hovering on the horizon. When and if we go into the single currency, the Bank will take on largely irrelevant subsidiary status.

So in summary, the Bank has had half its job removed, it now gets the blame for an unpopular policy, and at the end of it all is the prospect of redundancy. No wonder so many people round there are feeling down in the dumps. Who wouldn't?

CSFB can only blame itself

SEEN THROUGH the distorted prism of the financial markets, the only issue that really matters in Russia's economic crisis is how foreign banks are going to come out of the \$40bn debt restructuring

package.

The fate of the Russian economy, and the longer-term question of whether this sad old country can ever get its act together, appears largely forgotten, never mind ordinary Russians as in time honoured fashion they once again reach for the vodka.

The big Western banks badly stung by the latest Russian events, particularly Credit Suisse First Boston, have elevated the wrangling over the debt restructuring package to a level of high principle - if Russia cannot obey the rules of international capital markets then it will forever be denied further access to them. This is the altruistic point. The more immediate one is that if Russia persists in discriminating against foreign banks in the debt restructuring proposals, then they and their clients will lose even more money than they have already.

In the end, however, it is hard to have much sympathy for the investment bankers. They are like bounty hunters on the wild eastern frontiers of capitalism. They knew the risks and they cannot claim they were not warned. Russia has a long history of defaults and its transition from communism to capitalism has been rough and ready to put it mild-

ly. The hope was that Russia would tread the trail blazed by Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and other former members of the Eastern Bloc that have managed to reinvent themselves as dynamic free market economies. In truth, this was always going to be a much more difficult process in Russia.

Furthermore, those complaining loudest are also the ones who profited most when the party was in full swing. It's hard to remember it now but this time last year Russia was the best performing equity market in the world. As for the Russian debt market, who in their right mind would believe yields of 180 per cent for three month paper come risk free? These were highly paid investment bankers playing these markets, yet they seem to have done so with all the innocence of a defrauded Barlow Clowes investor.

British Airway's Airbus order

AFTER ALL that shilly shallying around with Boeing, British Airways has finally done what everyone knew it would and placed a large part

of its order for up and coming aircraft with Airbus. There is said to have been a row on the BA board about this right up until the last moment, and no doubt BA carved a cracking good deal by playing the two rival aircraft producers off against each other in this way. But in truth Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, always intended to go this route.

BA has been regarded as the bad boy of Europe for too long now. When Lord King, with Mrs Thatcher at his side, ran the show, its arrogant and sometimes obstructive stance with the Europeans didn't seem to do the company's underlying business any harm. It might even have helped. But that time has long since gone and there's evidence that BA's reputation in Europe for being difficult ensured a much rougher ride with regulators over its planned link up with American Airlines than it might otherwise have got.

Heaven forbid that there was any kind of a political fix in BA's decision to buy Airbus for the first time. That sort of thing just doesn't happen on the Continent, does it? But today's ceremony in Toulouse, complete with a guest appearance from Tony Blair, is going to help BA's image no end. And as everyone

IN BRIEF

LSE eases rules for GEMMs

THE LONDON Stock Exchange is to relax its rules to allow gilt-edged market makers (GEMMs) to opt out of dealing in index-linked government stock.

The exchange plans next month to introduce a new, separate register of GEMMs which trade in index-linked stock. Now all registered GEMMs have to trade in all classes of gilt-edged stock.

The new rules mean GEMMs can register for index-linked stock, for all conventional gilts, or all gilts.

EMI ponders bid

EMI confirmed it is mulling over a bid for Polygram Filmed Entertainment. "EMI regularly reviews acquisition opportunities and confirms that it is one of a number of parties considering the possible acquisition of PFE. EMI is still in the early stages of assessing this opportunity and a further announcement will be made if appropriate," EMI said.

Thai IMF loan

THE THAI government is set to approve its fifth quarterly agreement with the International Monetary Fund.

The government's letter of intent will be presented to the cabinet today before it goes to IMF headquarters in Washington for final ratification. The letter outlines the progress of the country's reforms under its \$17.2bn (\$10.5bn) rescue package approved last year. Analysts predicted the economy would contract by 7 per cent in the year to September, compared with previous forecasts of a 4 to 5.5 per cent contraction.

Korea strike over

MANAGEMENT AND union officials of Hyundai Motor ended a 36-day dispute at South Korea's largest car maker. Overnight both sides agreed a "minimum level of layoffs". Hyundai's 26,000-strong union walked out on 20 July in protest at the company's plan to lay off 1,538 workers.

Satellite launch

LUXEMBOURG-BASED Societe Europeenne des Satellites (SES) is to launch its Astra 2A satellite on 30 August from Kazakhstan. The satellite will distribute digital satellite services to the UK and Ireland. Customers include the BBC, BSkyB, Flextech, Discovery, UKTV, Turner Broadcasting and Viacom.

£6m hotels plan

ORIEL LEISURE, the UK budget hotel company, is planning a £6m development of two Holiday Inn Express hotels on sites it has bought in Peterborough and Canterbury. Oriel intends to develop, and subsequently operate, a minimum of 20 budget hotels in the UK over the next three years.

The company has a franchise agreement with Bass Hotels & Resorts to build and operate Holiday Inn Express hotels in the United Kingdom.

US power plays make sense

News Analysis: For UK utilities, America is a first step towards realising their global ambitions

BY TERRY MACALISTER

THE US invasion that swept the British utility sector in the last three years is about to go into reverse, with the top UK utilities fighting for a beachhead in North America.

British progress so far has been less than impressive, with a pile of failed transatlantic merger documents consigned to the shredder. PowerGen could not pull off a \$16bn (£9.8bn) link with Houston Industries and Scottish Power was unable to clinch the \$40m takeover of Florida Progress.

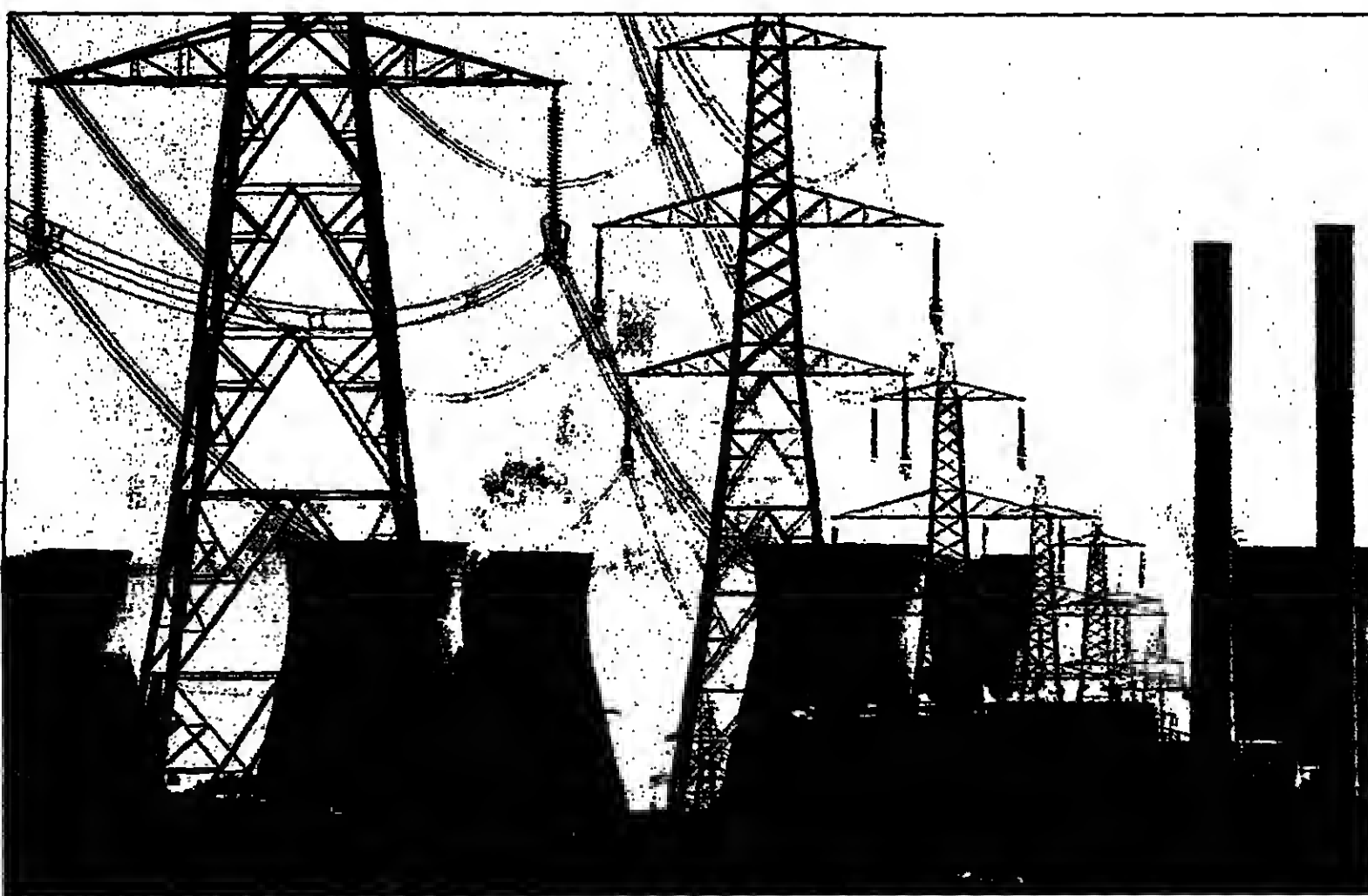
But these are early days for leading industry figures such as Ed Wallis, chief executive of PowerGen, who has made it clear he wants to create a global combine before he retires. Corporate ego and the business mantra of consolidation is backed up by sound reasons why UK utilities should break out of their boring backyards.

The US is a necessary first step for PowerGen, while UK competitors such as National Power, Scottish Power and others also want to use the high pound to build their foreign empires. "Everyone is talking to everybody else. Second-tier US companies feel they must grow quickly or be swallowed up by larger competitors," said one City analyst.

Problems to be wrestled with include the local US regulators, who still appear to have reservations about foreign ownership, and a tough line on what constitutes a reasonable rate of return. Problems are compounded by the very high valuations currently put on the US utilities as bid fever grows.

Scottish Power's name has been linked with Cinergy, while British Energy has already secured a foothold with its Peco Energy joint venture, AmerGen. But the American assault on UK assets is by no means over, despite many considering that their best prospects lie at home. US groups have bought eight of the 14 UK regional electricity companies (RECs) since the end of 1993.

That strategy has not been a total success. Already Virginia-based Dominion Resources has offloaded East Midlands Electricity to PowerGen, albeit for a



Consolidation among UK RECs - above is the power station at Ferrybridge, West Yorkshire - may lead to a global acquisition drive

TRANSATLANTIC POWER PLAY		
US Companies	UK Companies	What happened...
Texas Utilities	Energy Group	£4.5bn acquisition
Southern Company	SWEB	£1.1bn acquisition
Central and Southwest	Seaboard	£1.6bn acquisition
Entergy	London Electricity	£1.3bn acquisition
GPU & Cinergy	Midlands Electricity	£1.7bn acquisition
Dominion Resources	East Midlands	£1.3bn acquisition
American Electric Power	Yorkshire Electricity	£1.5bn acquisition
CalEnergy	Northern Electric	£782m acquisition
UK Companies	US Companies	What happened...
British Energy	West Energy	Joint venture agreed
PowerGen	Cinergy	\$13.4bn merger failed
Scottish Power	Houston Industries	\$16bn merger failed
Scottish Power	Florida Progress	\$40m acquisition failed
Scottish Power	Cinergy	\$8.5bn acquisition speculated

tidy profit. Meanwhile, New Orleans-based Entergy has announced plans to sell London Electricity.

But Pacificorp is now seen as a contender to buy London Electricity, while Energy Group - the UK's largest electricity supplier - was snapped up recently for \$4.5bn by Texas Utilities.

So why are British companies so interested in US assets, and vice versa? Deregulation is the starting point, and the subsequent actions of the regulators are further factors.

As competition in the home markets has become tougher for regulated companies, utilities have sought to spread their risk and head overseas.

The American invasion was triggered by the low valuations put on the regional electricity companies (RECs) over here.

With deregulation of the sector proceeding faster in Britain than the US, American companies saw themselves gaining valuable experience that could be used later at home. They also believed that a similar language and business culture was a good first step abroad; their sights were set in the longer term on continental Europe.

But a range of issues demoralised the Americans. The opportunities for efficiency savings were not as great as anticipated, but the biggest blow came from the new Labour government's windfall profit tax, which damaged the scope for making serious profits out of companies which were bought for thin-drawn prices.

Labour's decision to restrict the building of gas-fired power stations has also dented confidence and fuelled fears that the

regulatory environment is less certain than first thought.

There is now growing apprehension about the pending price review, which will cover the period 2000 to 2005, while local UK companies are deemed, by some experts, to be better placed to take advantage of further consolidation.

The Government's decision to run electricity distribution and supply operations under

separate licences will bring a further shake-up. Analysts say that in two or three years' time the 12 RECs in Britain could have become half this number, while there could be four or five national supply businesses.

Leading British utilities are rapidly concluding that they can make more money by offering existing customers not just electricity, but gas and water too.

But the US market is attractive to UK companies as the electricity utilities here have seen their valuations buoyed up by all the bid activity. With the UK entering a mature market phase, with downsizing and cost cutting nearing their peak, the British companies see the US as a virgin territory in which to ply their skills. Although US giants such as Texas Utilities have been busy on the UK stage, there is a swathe of lower-capitalised US firms which could benefit from outside management expertise.

UK companies such as National Power have already established a presence in Asia and beyond. But the US is attractive because it is culturally and legally similar to Britain. The Far East is now considered too risky, as is Eastern Europe, while opportunities in Latin

America have been hoovered up by rivals from countries such as Spain.

New federal legislation has also triggered consolidation in the US in an industry which is notoriously fragmented.

Chris Rowland, the managing director of European utilities research at Merrill Lynch, sees rich pickings for British and other European companies in the US. "Most European companies will look to the US as a means of achieving global ambitions. After a decade of privatisation, incentive regulation, competition and cross-selling electricity and gas supply, UK utilities seem particularly well-positioned to exploit emerging opportunities in the full."

The transatlantic process that began with electricity and gas could move into water. Some experts believe the final moves could lead to the emergence of a group of mega-utilities, half of them based in the US and half in Europe. In their global reach and corporate power, the mega-utilities could rival the oil companies. A new version of the Seven Sisters, perhaps?

Finding the right partners in the US might dictate whether PowerGen and Scottish Power join this mighty clique.

Mr Hemmings has been steadily building his stake for some time through investment vehicle Guild Ventures. However, a disclosure last month that the stake had leapt to 22.3 per cent prompted Vymura to seek clarification of his intentions.

Last week, Vymura's chairman Andrew Garety said they had requested a meeting with Mr Hemmings but had emerged from the discussions with no clearer idea as to his intentions.

Vymura said yesterday: "I don't think Vymura is any closer to understanding where he is coming from or what he wants. He still maintains that this is an investment."

Analysts pointed out that Mr Hemmings, a former director in charge of Scottish & Newcastle's leisure division, was probably taking advantage of the weakness in Vymura's shares which have fallen after a profits warning coupled with last week's interim results.

"He has picked up a little more stock on the cheap," one analyst said.

Mr Hemmings already has interests in a wallpaper group through a privately controlled business as well as racecourse interests through a quoted vehicle, Arena. He is currently listed as Britain's 65th richest man.

Vymura has been hit by a fall off in demand as home decorators turn increasingly to paint as a result of television programmes such as Changing Rooms.

Mr Hemmings' most recent purchase in Vymura amounts to 6.5 million shares, representing an additional 3.1 per cent. At the current share price Vymura is valued at around £22m. The shares stood at 192.5p at the beginning of 1997.

Retail investors take bullish view on stock market

UK RETAIL investors are proving more bullish than professional fund managers. They are continuing to pour money into the stock market in spite of warnings from pundits of a bear market on the way.

Figures released by the Association of Unit Traders and Investment Funds showed gross sales up 35 per cent year-on-year in July at over £3.3bn.

The figures came before the latest bout of turmoil which has pulled the FTSE down some 10 per cent from its July peak.

Philip Warland, Audit director general, said the figures showed that retail investors had been big buyers of gilts and Continental European stocks, which have both been having a good run in anticipation of slower UK growth and strong

economic performance in the big European economies next year. "They have actually been quite shrewd."

Retail investors have tended to be holders of the UK market rather than sellers. That is in sharp contrast to the behaviour of pension funds who collectively took £2.5bn out of the UK stock market in the first quarter.

Pension funds are now less fully invested in UK equities than at any time since the October 1987 crash.

Redemptions are up on June, but no more than would be expected during the summer. "There is no hint of panic. Unlike October 1987 when many people had just gone into the market, retail investors are on the whole now sitting on several years of gains, and are just sitting there doing nothing," he said.

He added that there is evidence, too, that more people are investing in the stock market through regular savings plans, which reduce the risk of investors being badly hit by sudden market moves.

Both retail and institutional investors have been cutting exposure to the UK smaller company sector and to the Far East, excluding Japan.

Investors were net sellers of smaller companies to the tune of £136m in July, and of Far East excluding Japan to the tune of £172bn, according to the Antif figures.

They were also net sellers of Japan and global markets generally in favour of more stable markets closer to home.

هكذا منذ البداية

Working mothers are the economy's flexible friends

ONE OF the core debates about how relaxed we can afford to be over inflation concerns the wages outlook given the fall in unemployment.

Although wage inflation has certainly picked up in the course of the recovery, it has not accelerated as much as seasoned observers feared. Inflation optimists say that pay is unlikely to prove a problem this time around because of structural improvements in the jobs market. These could have reduced what economists call the "non-accelerating inflation rate of unemployment" - Nairu - allowing joblessness to fall further than in previous cycles without fuelling wage and price rises.

The precise nature of these structural improvements is usually left vague: it is put down to the greater flexibility of the jobs market without spelling out exactly what is more flexible. Has weaker employment protection legislation helped tame wages? Or the spread of temporary work and contracting out?

This matters when assessing government policies that will temper Conservative policies, such as the Social Chapter and the fairness at work White Paper. An article in the latest Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin offers an important and surprising clue to the type of flexibility that has allowed a step fall in unemployment: it is mainly babies or, more precisely, their mothers.

As someone who is on maternity leave looking after my contribution to the future labour supply, the suggestion that working mothers have made such an important contribution to taming inflation caught my eye. Phil Evans, the author, notes that while the male unemployment rate has fallen since the trough of the recession, it has not yet regained the low point it attained at the peak of the last business cycle. On the other hand, female unemployment has fallen significantly lower than it did last time around.

On the new survey-based

ECONOMICS



DIANE COYLE

Women's value as workers is too high to lose just because they become mothers

measure of joblessness, the overall unemployment rate dropped by 1.9 percentage points between its peak in 1984 and the subsequent one in 1993, with the female rate was down 5 percentage points and the male rate actually up by 0.5 points. Likewise, female unemployment is now below its 1990 trough, whereas male unemployment has not yet matched its low (see Chart 1).

So it seems that if this economic recovery has been able to go further in expanding the jobs market than last time around, the explanation must be sought in the employment patterns of women. Logically, there are three ways measured unemployment can fall. Fewer women can become unemployed, more can leave unemployment, or the length of time for which they are typically out of work can shorten.

All these measures vary in the obvious way over the business cycle - for example, redundancies, and therefore inflows into unemployment, rise during recessions. The evidence shows that women have always had shorter spells of joblessness than men. Before 1990, however, they had a much higher rate of inflow into unemployment.

This has changed dramatically during the 1990s. All of a sudden, in 1991, the female inflow rate dropped below the male rate in the kind of decisive change rarely apparent in

economic data (chart 2). The abrupt change could more than account for the overall trough-to-trough decline in the jobless rate. But why did it happen?

A further clue is that the lion's share of the decline can be accounted for by a sharp fall in unemployment among the mothers of young children. The jobless rate of this subgroup fell from 27.2 per cent in 1984 to 9.8 per cent in 1996.

The paper has two explanations for this. One is the introduction of Family Credit in 1988. The new benefit made it financially more rewarding to be in work after the birth of each child. Family Credit was also paid to the mother directly in almost all cases. In 1987, 210,000 families claimed Family Income Support, but in 1988, 470,000 claimed Family Credit. The government's new Working Families Tax Credit, which will replace Family Credit, could benefit more families, but will transfer payment from mothers to fathers in many cases, so it will have a mixed effect on female unemployment.

The other influence has been a change in the behaviour of employers. It might not feel like it to most working mothers, but many companies have become more willing to introduce suitable work arrangements. More have maternity leave arrangements that tempt women in return to their old job after the birth of their child. There have also been dramatic increases in arrangements such as job-shares, flex-time, some working from home and longer career breaks.

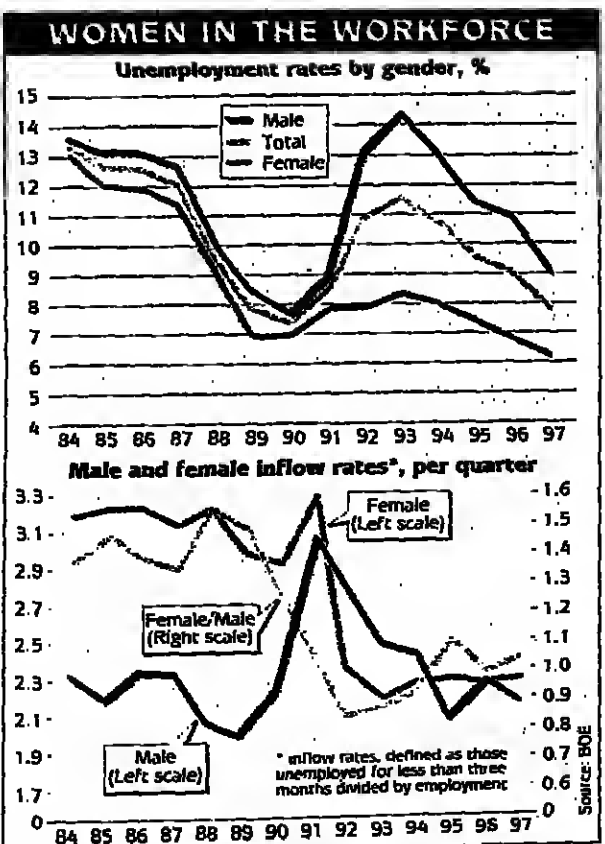
As a result, according to surveys carried out by the Policy Studies Institute, the probability that mothers of young children return to work climbed from 46 per cent in 1988 to 67 per cent in 1996. The proportion returning to their old employer rose from 35 to 58 per cent.

Companies have not become more family-friendly from the goodness of their hearts, however. The economist's explanation for the spread of favourable practices lies in the fact that the benefits to employers of retaining female employees has risen relative to the cost of the schemes. With many women also having their children later, their value as workers is too high to lose just because they become mothers.

A fascinating implication of this is that, while greater flexibility has helped make Britain's jobs market work better, it is not the kind of flexibility that usually springs to mind. It is not greater flexibility for employers to exploit workers, but greater flexibility for employees that seems to account for an improvement in the supply-side performance of the economy. There is a gratifying moral here for all parents who work - and, indeed, for all employees.

"Why has the female unemployment rate in Britain fallen?" by Phil Evans, Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin August 1998.

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Bid talk envelops Brierley

RUMOURS OF a takeover bid swirled around New Zealand-based Brierley Investments Limited (BIL) yesterday after the collapse of a deal to sell Thistle, the UK hotel group in which BIL has its biggest single investment, Reuters reports.

Malaysia-based Camerlin Group yesterday sought a meeting of other Brierley shareholders to consider the removal from the board of its executive chairman, Sir Roger Douglas. Financial sector sources soon began talking of a likely bid.

Sir Roger demanded that Camerlin reveal its intentions and chided the timing its attack

within a few days of a vital board meeting. Camerlin could not be reached for comment.

Sir Roger accepted that the Thistle deal's failure was disappointing, but said it had been a victim of market conditions and the circumstances of the bid, widely reported to be the Japanese finance house Nomura. "The simple fact is that there was not an offer that the directors of Thistle and BIL could accept," he said.

One source said Camerlin's impatience with BIL was heightened by a book valuation of its stake which was equivalent to NZ\$1.44 per share.

In July helped by speculation that its 48 per cent stake in Thistle could raise around NZ\$2.1bn (£640m), Brierley shares soared NZ\$1.00. However, once the Thistle deal collapsed, BIL slumped to a low of NZ\$0.70.

Analysts said the acid test of any move to provoke change in Brierley would be how other major owners reacted.

Brierley's board is to meet on 31 August. Camerlin has two of its eight members, but others include one from the Singapore government, which holds about 10 per cent, and also company founder and longtime board member Sir Ron Brierley.

Company	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	Ex-div
Carver	7.17m (4.57m)	0.94m (0.92m)	4.3p (4.1p)	2.75p (2.5p)	25.09.98	01.09.98
CCN (S)	18.5m (16.5m)	1.28m (1.25m)	12.3p (14.9p)	-	-	-
BLP (S)	277.3m (187.4m)	7.45m (6.64m)	4.73p (5.19p)	-	-	-
Brown & Jackson (F)	53.2m (4.86m)	-5.55m (-2.30m)	-1.22p (-4.49p)	-	-	-
Swire (S)	43.2m (38.56m)	0.47m (0.31m)	3.0p (2.2p)	1.25p (2.2p)	02.11.98	28.09.98
Hydro-Dynamic Products (F)	6.5m (6.0m)	0.57m (0.85m)	5.1p (8.0p)	3.5p (3.0p)	12.10.98	14.09.98
Jumbo International (S)	0.917m (0.182m)	0.002m (-0.100m)	0.015p (-3.08p)	-	-	-
Lantern (S)	14.65m (9.15m)	2.95m (1.54m)	6.91p (5.54p)	1.5p (1.5p)	02.11.98	01.09.98
BSA Hotel Systems (S)	3.4m (1.5m)	0.74m (0.45m)	5.3p (4.1p)	0.25p	28.09.98	01.09.98

Coventry debt provision adds to housing gloom

FRESH GLOOM surrounded the housing market yesterday as Coventry Building Society trebled the amount it is setting aside to cover bad debts caused by homeowners defaulting on their loans.

Amid strong doubts about the economy, Coventry, one of the smaller societies, raised bad debt provisions to £1.4m from £400,000. Its overall provision rose to £2.6m.

Martha Ritchie, chief executive, said: "We are looking ahead with a degree of caution. I hope that caution proves unfair."

But the fact that we have had six increases in base rates,

BY ANDREW VERITY

a flattening of house prices and people being laid off - in the manufacturing sector in particular - has made us cautious."

Yesterday this view was reinforced by data showing widespread gloom among surveyors over the state of the housing market. Fresh figures from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors showed only 16.4 per cent reporting a rise in house prices in July - the lowest for more than two years.

The proportion of surveyors reporting an outright fall in house prices rose to more than

7 per cent in July. In the first six months of 1998 the number of homeowners looking to sell showed its biggest rise in three years.

Ian Perry, housing market spokesman for the RICS, said: "In the short term the Bank of England's commitment to bringing down underlying inflation by maintaining interest rates at current levels will almost certainly slow housing market activity. But the key to an active market is consumer confidence - this fragile commodity has been steadily eroded over recent months and will not be helped by a further slowdown

in economic growth during the rest of 1998."

The slowing market was most apparent in the South-east of England, where the number of surveyors reporting price rises fell by around 20 per cent. Surveyors believe the market has now "gone off the boil" and blame poor weather and a traditional summer slowdown in the market. Many also noted a growing reluctance by buyers to pay inflated prices.

Coventry said it raised bad debt provisions due to economic concern rather than the safety of new loans. Customers were still avoiding arrears, it said.

The society made the had debt provision despite a bumper result for the first six months of 1998, when profits rose to £17.6m from £11.5m in the first half of 1997.

A decision to remain a building society allowed Coventry to trim margins, the society said. Net lending doubled to £324m and savings business quadrupled as customers were attracted by competitive rates.

More than three-quarters of the society's new borrowers were sold fixed-rate or discounted mortgages, many of them tying themselves to the lender for at least five years.



SELLING CARS and burgers is proving successful for Gowings, the car dealership and Burger King franchise operator. Finance director David Gray (left) and chief executive Derek Coulson announced pre-tax profits up by 26 per cent to £401,000 on sales up 12 per cent at £43.3m.

Gowings, based in Wokingham, Bucks, operates Ford dealerships in Wokingham, Newbury and Bracknell and bodyshops in Newbury, Wokingham and Swindon. Its leisure division grew by buying seven Burger Kings in the

Midlands: it has an agreement to open 21 more in the region in the next three years. The interim dividend was up 14 per cent to 1.25p a share. Photograph: Rui Xavier

Talks on takeover - but no formal offer

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

MULBERRY, the luxury goods retailer whose shares have been savaged by the strong pound and the Asia crisis, has received informal approaches about a possible takeover, the company claimed yesterday.

However, Mulberry said the approaches had not led to a formal offer and so shareholders had not been informed of the talks.

Mulberry shares fell a further 7p to a new low of 41.5p yesterday after the company disclosed that it will report full year losses of £1m on Wednesday after exceptional charges of £200,000. In its profits warning in March, the company said its losses would be "not better than £750,000."

But the company denied it is planning to close its UK manufacturing operations and said trading for the current year was "in line with budget."

"The board knows it has appointed the City and it is going to take some time to put matters straight," a spokesman said. "If someone were to come in (with a takeover approach), I'm sure they would look at it."

At yesterday's closing price, Mulberry is worth just 28.6m. Mulberry shares were priced at 153p when it floated on AIM in 1996. They rose to 214.5p at the beginning of last year, but have since been in freefall.

P&O Stena sails home with £14.4m

A GROWING market in cross-Channel travel has helped P&O Stena to better-than-expected results in its first three months of operation in spite of more effective competition from Eurotunnel, writes Andrew Verity.

City analysts welcomed profits of £14.4m in the three months since March 10. The results were at the top end of the range of analyst's forecasts.

The ferry operator's market share slipped slightly after Eurotunnel, its biggest rival, bounced back from results which had been disrupted by the aftermath of the fire in the Channel in November 1996.

P&O Stena took 33 per cent of all tourist vehicles and 45 per cent of freight, against a market share of 49 per cent and 31 per cent for Eurotunnel.

Losses to Eurotunnel were

offset by a 12 per cent rise in tourists taking their cars to the Continent. Profits were also helped by the end of a price war caused by overcapacity in the cross-Channel market.

P&O Stena began in 1996 as a joint venture between P&O and Stena, the Swedish shipping company, with the aim of cutting overcapacity in cross-Channel travel.

Job losses stemming from

the merger of the two are expected to amount to around 1,000 by the time operations are fully merged. Stena's headquarters in Ashford, Kent, and three ships have been targeted as part of the merger.

Both P&O and Stena will be hard hit by the abolition of duty-free goods next year. Stena yesterday posted a loss for the first half of the year of 530m Swedish crowns.

AMP slips on volatile market fears

SHARES in AMP the acquisitive Australian fund manager and life insurer, slipped by 1.4 per cent yesterday as a stronger-than-expected first-half result was marred by fears over market volatility.

AMP, which handed out free shares to 170,000 UK policyholders when it de-mutualised last June, warned that profits for the full year were vulnerable to falling markets.

George Trumbull, group chief executive, said forecast profits of at least A\$74m (£275m) for the full year were on track. But he added: "Volatility in the markets, however, makes forecasting very difficult."

Profits before exceptional items in the first half were at the top end of analysts' expectations at A\$603m, helped by strong British investment markets which rose 13 per cent. But the company said it was "cautious" about the second half.

Shares on the Sydney stock market closed down 54 cents at A\$21.88, slightly more than the analyst's expectation of A\$21.80. Analysts expressed disappointment at smaller-than-expected cuts in costs.

AMP owns Pearl Assurance, one of the UK's largest life insurers. But only policyholders with London Life and AMP UK have benefited from free shares.

The insurer - Australia's

BY ANDREW VERITY

biggest - has been particularly acquisitive in the UK. In April, it completed a takeover of Henderson, a UK fund manager, boosting its funds under management by A\$57bn to A\$172bn (£82bn).

At the beginning of last year, the insurer came second to the Prudential in the race to buy Scottish Amicable, the UK life insurer which specialises in pensions sold through independent financial advisers.

It has open ambitions for further acquisitions in its home markets of Australia, New Zealand and the UK. A spokesman said: "It is fair to say we are looking out all the time and that the UK is a very important market to us. We missed out on ScotAm but got Henderson this year. We have made it clear we do have an acquisitive stance."

AMP also has a 50 per cent stake in Virgin Direct, Richard Branson's life insurance operation launched over two years ago. Funds under management at Virgin Direct rose from A\$2.78bn (£990m) to A\$4.31bn (£1,530m) in the first half.

AMP confirmed a substantial proportion of UK shareholders had already sold their shares, most of whom are believed to have held shares in trust. But more than half have kept their shares since the flotation last June.

North Sea oil find for Shell

BY TERRY MACALISTER

SHELL announced yesterday a new North Sea oil discovery, but Lasso and British Borneo have missed out on a potential development.

Shell said well 21/12-3 in the central North Sea, 80 miles off Scotland, had tested oil at a rate of 8,200 barrels a day.

It was now evaluating a range of possible infrastructure solutions, such as a subsea tie-back to its existing Klitiwake platform seven miles away.

But Lasso and British Borneo will not participate, having sold on their combined 26 per cent stake to Burlington Resources of the US. The area had not been considered exciting after two previous wells failed to show any sign of hydrocarbons.

The new find is a considerable boost to Burlington which has only developed a very small presence in the North Sea and Ireland over the last 12 months.

It is also important for Ireland's exploration minnow, Dana Petroleum, which holds an 11.4 per cent stake. Shell and Esso each own 31.3 per cent.

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1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Lichtenthaler and Sponholz (1980). The total chlorophyll content was determined by the method of Lichtenthaler and Sponholz (1980). The total chlorophyll content was determined by the method of Lichtenthaler and Sponholz (1980).

Fragile Footsie rally fails to convince

THE CRASH so confidently predicted in some quarters failed to materialise as Footsie, after a nervous session, managed to recapture some of Friday's lost ground.

But it was not a convincing performance. Order-driven trading, in its very nature, increases volatility and the index swung between extremes of a 76.7-point gain and a 32.5 loss, which tended to underline the fragility of the stock market.

Trading was again moderate. Traders spent much of the session complaining about the lack of business, with it, seemed, many investors sitting on the sidelines.

Sentiment was helped by renewed takeover speculation. The sharp fall since shares peaked in July has left many groups looking decidedly vulnerable. Banking and drugs are the two sectors where corporate activity is expected.

Investment house CSFB was said to be telling clients that the fall had been too steep and drugs and life insurers looked attractive. The private client broker, Redmayne Bentley, told clients it did not expect a bear market "though we could still drift some way in the coming weeks".

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

Strategist Allan Collins said: "When stocks drop sharply on short-term trading and 'bad headlines', investors should buy - getting into the market on a big correction should prove to be a good move in the longer term."

New York provided the prop for blue chips, with the turmoil in Russia and worries about the Far East and Latin America pushed into the background.

HSBC, the banking group, was one of the best-performing Footsie constituents as the Chinese authorities again came to the rescue

of the beleaguered Hong Kong market. Aggressive buying produced another seemingly confident session, with the Hang Seng index rising 4.2 per cent.

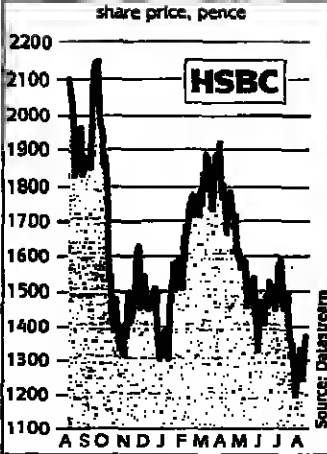
The sterling-denominated HSBC shares responded with an 8.5p gain to 1,574p and Standard Chartered firmed 26p to 595p.

Although Footsie rallied, up 76.7 points at 5,533.7, the rest of the market remained in the doldrums. The mid cap index tumbled a further 18.5 to 5,056 and the small cap lost 9.3 to 2,289.3.

Retailers had another raw session with MFI, the furniture group which has been in seeming relentless decline this year, hitting another low. The shares, in brisk trading, lost 3p to 34p on worries that next month's shareholders' meeting will be particularly gloomy, possibly encompassing a profits warning. A few weeks after the meeting MFI is due to start a round of City investment presentations.

Asea, in its ex-dividend form, gave up 4p to 175.5p and Safeway 4.25p to 312p. Whitbread, now more a retailer than a brewer, lost 12p to 78p.

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Barratt Developments, the house builder, was demolished 13p to 190.5p, its lowest for almost three years. Rival Beazer, off 8.5p to 140p, is due to report profits the week after next, with Barratt reporting towards the end of August.

receive an approach but talks were broken off. It has since said it is not involved in corporate discussions.

Hillsdown, due to split itself into three, shaded 3p to 158p as Unigate denied it had reopened bid talks.

Diageo, the spirits giant, put on 26p to 678p as Merrill Lynch made positive noises but Allied Domecq, despite a cautious trading statement and support from some analysts, softened 2p to 538p.

Rage Software, the computer games group, firmed 0.5p to 12.75p. There are suggestions that Eidos, off 40p at 672.5p, could pounce: the group has made no secret of its ambitions to expand through acquisitions. The feeling that it intends to show its shares around is one reason behind their fall from 1,262.5p when it announced its takeover intentions in June.

Phytopharm, up 13.3p to 129.5p, has clinched the expected deal with a major drugs group: Pfizer turns out to be giant involved. It is collaborating over Phytopharm's obesity drug, which is seen as having intriguing prospects. But any drug will not arrive on the market before 2003.

Vymura, the wall coverings group, added 10p to 124p after multi-millionaire Trevor Hemmings lifted his stake to 25.4 per cent, buying 810,000 shares.

Limelight, the hard-pressed bathrooms and kitchens group, firmed to 37p on talk of corporate action. The price was 200p last year.

Desire Petroleum, seeking oil and gas off the Falkland Islands, fell 20p to 130p, just one penny above its low. Reports of exciting developments have gone round, including stories of oil-soaked penguins sighted in the Falklands. Emerald Energy, which should be ready to report on its Colombian drilling, jumped 1.25p to 7.5p with, according to Seag, nearly 29 million shares traded.

Ted Baker, the clothing group, firmed 10p to 137.5p following Charterhouse Tilney comments. Queens Moat Houses rose 2.5p to 28.25p after reports of bid action, seemingly from Hanover International run by Peter Eyles.

SEAG VOLUME: 610.5m
SEAG TRADES: 51,226
GILTS INDEX: n/a

ELECTRONIC FUNDRAISING, a lottery on the Internet, made a winning debut on the fringe Oxfam share market, hitting 155p from the 100p at which shares were sold to investors to raise £4.5m.

It is one of the strangest creations to arrive on the lightly-regulated market. Based at Borehamwood in Hertfordshire, it is licensed in Liechtenstein to run world-wide lottery games and weekly lotteries.

TOROTRAF, the transmissions group hired off from BTG, seems likely to crash out of the mid cap index next month. The shares shed 21.5p to 188.5p: they arrived last month at around 300p.

DMATEK, an Israeli company, jumped 11.5p to 42.5p on hopes it will benefit from electronic tagging. A government contract worth around £100m, is possible and Dmatel supplies at least two firms in the running.

Pain turns to gain for hard-hit high street

THE RETAIL SECTOR has been a grim place for investors this year, with share prices scarred by profits warnings and downgrades as higher interest rates and the consumer slowdown have taken their toll.

But after such a steep decline - the general retail sector has underperformed the FT All Share by 16 per cent so far this year - are we now at or near the bottom? Could it be time to selectively start buying back in?

Valuations certainly look tempting. The sharp fall since the start of the year has taken the overall under-performance of the sector to 30 per cent since its peak in July 1996.

According to a recent research note on the sector by Credit Suisse First Boston relative valuations are now comparable with those last seen in the last recession. The sector average p/e is 16 while the gross yield is 3.4 per cent.

There are a number of reasons for this, of course. After the false dawn of 1997, when sales were inflated by building society windfalls, this year has provided a rude awakening.

Higher interest rates have been a key factor in dampening demand, but profitability has been squeezed further by costs rising faster than inflation.

Return on capital has come under pressure as retailers have found demand slowing just as many have started to increase capacity.

The question now is whether the de-rating has gone too far. Consumers are in better shape than they were at the start of the last recession as individuals have been borrowing less and saving more.

The savings ratio currently stands at just under 10 per cent, for example, compared to just over 6 per cent at the start of the last slump. This should limit the downside.

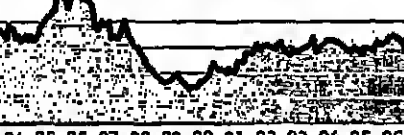
Interest rates may now be at their peak and many commentators expect the next move

INVESTMENT

EDITED BY NIGEL COPE

RETAIL SECTOR: AT A GLANCE

General retail sector relative to FTSE All Share



1980's and 1990's retail cycle

- Positives:**
 - 1. Valuations nearly discount the previous trough.
 - 2. Less space coming through to depress pricing power in next upswing.
 - 3. Sector less financially pressured than in 1989/90: a very small proportion of the sector looks risky.
- Negatives:**
 - 1. NOCE still unsupportive, especially in the less defensive stocks.
 - 2. Demographics and wealth polarisation unhelpful.
 - 3. Lack of inflation hinders sales growth and increases stock risk.
 - 4. Supply chain more geared to volumes than in last cycle?

General retail sector versus interest rates



UK General Retail Index relative to FTSE All Share (rebased to 100) (RHS)
UK Interbank 3 month middle rate (RHS)

might be down, thereby reducing the pressure, on consumer spending. Retailers also tend to be an early cycle mover, so while their ratings have been among the first to suffer, they could also recover fastest.

According to Credit Suisse First Boston's note entitled "Pain turns to Gain", it will be the FTSE 100 retailers - Marks & Spencer, GUS, Boots and Kingfisher - that will feel the benefit soonest.

However, for sentiment to change the market will need to be reassured about M&S, which still accounts for a quarter or the whole sector. It has been hit by a series of downgrades and until that stops, little will happen.

Other companies that look under-valued are Dixons, where the digital boost does not appear to have been fully factored in, and Next (now yielding 5 per cent) whose profits warning was due to too

much demand rather than too little. Smaller fashion stock like New Look and Monsoon have seen sales fall sharply, but the uplifting breeze could take a while to reach these second liners.

The jury is still very much out on retailers of higher ticket items where valuations have been savaged in recent months. Companies like MFI and Carpetright now yield more than 10 per cent but sentiment is weakest here.

There is no reason to hurry, either. An interest rate turn on its own might not be enough to trigger a change in sentiment as the market will start to become obsessed by Christmas trading before too long.

So there is no harm in investors sitting on their hands for a few months, but bolder souls might like to start picking out a few favourites.

Strategy pays for Lavendon

FOR THE PAST two years, the sky has been the limit for Lavendon. Since floating in 1996, the company has become the UK market leader in the hire of self-propelled ladders and lifts for anything from window-cleaning to outside broadcasting.

Lavendon's strategy of staying away from low-margin construction work and focusing on shorter-term maintenance hire to supermarkets and large City banks, has also produced handsome growth in profits and turnover.

Yesterday's interim results, with profits up 53 per cent to 2.4m and turnover 60 per cent higher to £14.7m were a case in point.

This meteoric rise has been mirrored in the share price, which touched a 12-month high of 545p in April, almost four times higher than the float price of 140p.

But can Lavendon go any higher? The answer is not in the short-term. The widely-predicted economic slowdown in the UK is set to hit the market for "powered access", which has been growing at 10 per cent-plus in recent years.

With more and more firms likely to postpone or scale down their maintenance programmes as the recession starts to bite, Lavendon's margins will come under pressure and growth will be restrained.

The company is trying to expand outside the UK, with forays into Germany and the Middle East, but 85 per cent of its business still come from these shores.

The market's nerves about Lavendon's prospects are starting to appear and yesterday the shares lost 17p to close at 420p. But even after this 4 per cent slide the stock is trading on 21 times expected earnings of around £8.5m.

At such a premium to the market, Lavendon is no more than a hold.

IN BRIEF

Unichem adds Norfolk chemist

ALLIANCE UNICHEM yesterday strengthened its UK retail division, Moss Chemists, with the acquisition of the Norfolk pharmacy, Rees T Coghlan (Holt) Ltd, for up to £1.18m. Moss Chemists, the third largest retail pharmacy chain in the UK, now operates from 540 outlets. Rees had sales of £1.23m in the 12 months to 31 March 1998.

French logistics

SELECT APPOINTMENTS Holdings' French subsidiary, Selpo, has acquired Société Alsacienne de Montage et d'Entretien (Same), a supplier of temporary logistics personnel. In its ninth acquisition since the beginning of the year, Select has agreed to pay up to £1.1m (£77.0m), having made an initial payment of \$0.5m in cash. Same provides a variety of logistics staff to light industrial companies such as hazardous chemicals drivers and warehouse personnel. Its audited sales for the year ended 30 June 1998 were £10m.

Aldi expands

FROGMORE ESTATES, the property group, is selling a 30-acre site in Chelmsford, Essex, to German supermarket chain Aldi for £2m. Aldi is going to develop a 400,000 square feet warehouse/distribution depot on this site. Aldi is a leading provider of private-label products in the European retail food market with 3,000 outlets across Europe.

Jury's ahead

THE IRISH-BASED JURY Hotel group said trading in the first quarter was ahead of same period last year. "The initial three months to the end of July are in line with our expectations and ahead of the corresponding quarter last year," chairman Walter Beatty told the annual meeting. Early trading records of its north London and Edinburgh hotels were very encouraging and JURY's had seen no sign of recessionary pressures, Beatty added.

German entente not so cordiale

IF YOU thought that the recent announcement of a joint venture between the London Stock Exchange and the Deutsche Börse heralded a new era of warm, cosy relations between the City and the German financial community think again.

The latest issue of *Finanzplatz-News*, a Frankfurt news-sheet giving "background information on the German Capital Market and Economy", isn't the most diplomatic document. "Frankfurt am Main will nudge London out of first place as the European financial center by the year 2005," declares a front page report on a study by CNBC, the American financial news channel. Next to it is an interview with Dr Lutz Roger Raetig, chairman of the board at Morgan Stanley Bank AG, who says: "The differences between London and Frankfurt at the moment are relatively clear-cut in favour of Frankfurt." I wonder if Dr Raetig's 2,000 or so colleagues in Morgan Stanley's London office would agree with him.

The British reader can relax for a moment as *Finanzplatz* quotes Barbara Rockefeller, President of Rockefeller Treasury Services. "The euro will be popular worldwide in the first six months of its official launch on 1 January 1999. As a reserve currency, the US dollar is a dead duck," she says.

Having dispatched the dollar, the news sheet goes back to trumpeting the German financial capital's progress. "Whereas the trading centers that have been the traditional leaders New York, Tokyo and London have been operating under overall conditions that have not changed much for about 10 years now, the German community has been modernising the market at an impressively fast pace."

Just hope the LSE's man, Gavin Casey, gets the equivalent of his towel on the lounge before his Deutsche Börse colleague, Werner Seifert.

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



trainee liquidators have been receiving their own exam results. The Insolvency Practitioners Association (IPA) has published its list, and 57 of the 80 people who took its Certificate of Proficiency in Insolvency (CPI) passed this sternest of tests.

The qualification was only introduced two years ago, in the profession's continuing crusade to wipe out "cowboy liquidators" who play fast and loose with creditors' assets.

Congratulations to Edwin Keddie of PricewaterhouseCoopers in Aberdeen, whose mark gained him first place in the IPA's ranks. There were a dozen trainee liquidators from PWC taking the exam - not surprising as that accountancy firm has by far the largest insolvency practice in the country.

THERE WERE red faces at the Central Office of Information (COI) over the weekend after their attempt to move their website - and hence all government press releases - to a new Internet server. This is important, as the COI publishes press releases on behalf of everybody from the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) to the Welsh Office.

As with so many projects involving computers, the aim was to save time and provide a better service. But the time needed to download stuff from the new website was often longer than the lifespan of an average Russian government.

To be fair, the COI site then ran the following message:

"Please accept our sincerest apologies for the long delays in accessing information from this service; steps have been taken to remedy this fault."

The COI added that in the meantime "the old press release site has been resurrected". So if you want to see a rare grovelling apology from a government agency, tap into the new site: <http://www.nds.co.uk/govuk/coi/press.htm>.

And if you want to peruse the old yet reliable site, go for <http://www.coi.govuk/coi/depts/deptlist.html>.

IT'S A busy time for EMI. Not only is the British music business mulling over a bid for PolyGram's film division, but it has just received a writ from Lupus Music, a London-based firm, over an alleged copyright infringement of a classic of British 60s psychedelia. (Anyone under the age of 35 can stop reading here).

The writ, issued via solicitors Gentle Ways of Grosvenor Street, London, says that "the plaintiff is the owner of the UK copyright in the musical work known as 'Careful with that Axe, Eugene'."

The writ says the work, recorded in 1968, "was made by Roger Waters, Richard Wright, David Gilmour and Nicholas Mason (known collectively by the professional name 'The Pink Floyd') who, when the work was made, were British subjects...". It adds that around December 1969, The Pink Floyd "recorded a work known as 'Come in Number 51, Your Time is Up'."

The writ alleges that this second track included hits of "Careful with that Axe..." and that this second track was used in the film *Zobrist Point*, released in 1970.

The writ claims that the second track found its way on to the album of the soundtrack of *Zobrist Point* currently on sale on the EMI label. It claims that this is a breach of copyright, deserving of damages. Whether this revelation will rock EMI's share price remains to be seen.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES									
Country	Sterling	1 month	3 months	Dollar	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark	Spot
UK	1.0000			0.6005	0.6106	0.6125	0.6135	0.3395	
Australia	2.0243	2.0196	2.0114	1.2121	1.2121	1.2121	1.2121	0.2566	
Austria	20.718	20.675	20.603	12.827	12.824	12.824	12.824	0.2566	
Belgium	60.751	60.521	60.121	13.975	13.953	13.953	13.953	0.2623	
Canada	2.5000	2.4953	2.5242	1.5481	1.5481	1.5481	1.5481	0.6823	
Denmark	11.721	11.185	11.121	6.8395	6.8293	6.8293	6.8293	0.8355	
ECU	1.4926	1.4877	1.4877	5.4599	5.4499	5.4499	5.4499	0.3011	
France	6.5682	6.5682	6.5682	6.0185	6.0185	6.0185	6.0185	0.3253	
Germany	2.9457	2.9457	2.9457	3.0622	3.0622	3.0622	3.0622	1.0000	
Greece	502.45	502.45	502.45	1.7952	1.7952	1.7952	1.7952	0.1708	
Ireland	12.712	12.712	12.712	1.3976	1.3976	1.3976	1.3976	0.7784	
Italy	11.741	11.741	11.741	1.7713	1.7713	1.7713	1.7713	0.9653	
Japan	236.80	236.80	236.80	144.20	144.20	144.20	144.20	3.2410	
Malaysia	6.9959	6.9446	7.0532	4.2403	4.2403	4.2403	4.2403	1.3907	
Mexico	1.9550			9.6500	9.6500	9.6500	9.6500	0.2032	
Netherlands	3.2121	3.2092	3.2068	2.0330	2.0330	2.0330	2.0330	0.2740	
New Zealand	3.3250	3.3250	3.3250	1.7953	1.7953	1.7953	1.7953	0.2566	
Portugal	201.48	201.48	201.48	183.87	183.87	183.87	183.87	0.2693	
Spain	165.46	165.46	165.46	1.7668	1.7668	1.7668	1.7668	0.5941	
South Africa	6.1546	6.1546	6.1546	1.7668	1.7668	1.7668	1.7668	0.5941	
Singapore	1.3689			6.2750	6.2750	6.2750	6.2750	0.4202	
South Korea	10.2000	10.2000	10.2000	1.7668	1.7668	1.7668	1.7668	0.5941	
Sweden	250.10	249.38	248.07	1.7668	1.7668	1.7668	1.7668	0.4202	
Switzerland	13.508	13.467	13.395	2.2328	2.2328	2.2328	2.2328	0.6551	
Taiwan	2.4811	2.4779	2.4747	1.5000	1.4947	1.4852	1.4852	0.5570	
US	1.6408								

INTEREST RATES										
UK		Germany		US		Japan				
Base	7.50%	Discount	2.50%	Prime	8.50%	Discount	0.50%			
France		Discount	4.50%	Repo	5.00%	Belgium				
Intervention	3.00%	Lombard		Fed Funds	5.50%	Discount				
Italy		Canada		Spain		Central	2.75%			
Prime	5.00%	Prime	6.50%	Spain		Government	3.30%			
Sweden		Denmark	5.00%	1 yr Repo	4.25%	Lombard				
SwApdavance	3.30%	Discount	3.75%	Sweden		Discount	1.00%			
				(Ave)	4.10%	Lombard	3.75%			
BOND YIELDS										
Country	3 mth	chg	1 yr	chg	2 yr	chg	3 yr	chg	10 yr	chg
Australia	4.97	0.02	5.10	0.06	5.23	0.05	5.44	0.01	5.60	0.01
Belgium	3.50	-0.01	3.71	-0.02	3.72	0.01	3.95	0.05	4.56	0.05
Canada	4.84	0.04	5.32	0.06	5.30	0.04	5.51	0.06	5.56	0.05
ECU	4.13	0.00	3.58	0.00	3.63	0.18	4.07	0.03	4.45	0.02
France	0.00	0.00	3.69	0.00	3.73	0.03	3.97	0.01	4.40	0.02
Germany	3.50	0.00	3.69	-0.03	3.51	-0.01	3.97	0.04	4.25	0.01
Italy	4.77	0.00	4.22	0.00	4.13	0.04	4.29	0.01	4.71	0.08
Japan	0.30	0.00	0.40	-0.01	0.45	-0.01	0.54	-0.04	1.43	-0.04
Netherlands	3.44	0.00	3.72	0.00	3.70	0.03	4.01	0.10	4.68	0.01
Spain	4.18	0.01	3.90	0.08	3.85	0.03	4.17	0.03	4.69	0.04
Sweden	4.12	-0.04	4.28	0.05	4.31	0.04	4.48	0.05	4.72	0.06
Sw	1.77	-0.01	2.00	-0.02	1.91	-0.06	2.23	0.00	2.88	0.04
Sw	1.77	0.00	2.00	0.00	1.91	0.00	2.23	0.00	2.88	0.04
US	4.91	0.06	5.30	-0.02	5.20	0.00	5.58	0.00	5.50	0.07
UK	4.91	0.06	5.30	-0.02	5.20	0.00	5.58	0.00	5.50	0.07
							5.16	-0.03	5.28	-0.01
MONEY MARKET RATES										
	Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year				
	On Offer	On Offer	On Offer	On Offer	On Offer	On Offer				
Treasury Bills										
				7.40	7.30					
Domestic Depos	5.50/7.81	7.63/7.75	7.63	7.68	7.63	7.68	7.63	7.68	7.50/7.56	
Overseas Depos	7.56/7.69	7.66/7.72	7.63	7.68	7.63	7.68	7.63	7.68	7.53/7.59	
Highly Bank Dis										
Scoring Cds				7.64	7.58	7.64	7.58	7.64	7.56	7.47
Eurodollar Cds										
				5.56	5.56	5.59				
CD Deposits				4.05	4.19	4.09/4.13	3.47	4.05		
www.bloomberg.com/uk Source: Bloomberg										

SPORT

Ryder Cup: Ballesteros warns of huge pressure as Europe looks to a safe pair of hands to lead the defence in 1999

James ready for the captain's role

BY ANDY FARRELL

DOWN BY the River Liffey last weekend, the Animal Liberation Army was not required. Cats were not being drowned in bags as much as being let out of them. As sure as the European tour moves on from Ireland to Germany, in Munich tomorrow Mark James will be named as the Ryder Cup captain for the match, at the Country Club of Brookline in Boston, against Ben Crenshaw's Americans next year.

It is almost 11 months since Seve Ballesteros resigned in triumph after retaining the Cup in Spain, but the lack of speculation regarding his successor has been muted only due to the shortage of credible candidates for the job.

Once Sam Torrance rediscovered his winning touch at the French Open in June, the only runner remaining was James. The whispers have suggested no one else and, during the course of the Smurfit European Open, while Mathias Gronberg was cake-walking to a 10-stroke victory, the pointers became ever more blatant.

THE MEN JAMES MUST FOLLOW

Europe's Ryder Cup captains since 1979

JOHN JACOBS
1979 Europe 11, USA 17
The Greenbrier
1981 Europe 9.5, USA 18.5
Wilton Heath

TONY JACKLIN
1983 Europe 13.5, USA 14.5
Pebble Beach
1985 Europe 16.5, USA 11.5
The Belfry
1987 Europe 15, USA 13
Muirfield Village
1989 Europe 14, USA 14
The Belfry

BERNARD GALLACHER
1991 Europe 13.5, USA 14.5
Keweenaw Island
1993 Europe 13, USA 15
The Belfry
1995 Europe 14.5, USA 13.5
Oak Hill

SEVE BALLESTEROS
1997 Europe 16.5, USA 13.5
Valderrama

ered his winning touch at the French Open in June, the only runner remaining was James. The whispers have suggested no one else and, during the course of the Smurfit European Open, while Mathias Gronberg was cake-walking to a 10-stroke victory, the pointers became ever more blatant.

A not-so-subtle clue came in a passing conversation between Ballesteros and James. "Congratulations," "Thank you," was the gist of it. For Seve, read "Seve".

James is 44, has won 18 times on the European tour and has played on seven Ryder Cup teams between 1977 and 1995. His outward demeanour is sometimes connected in a perverse manner to his true feelings, and a well-cultivated sense of humour – for someone whose interests include gardening, *Star Trek* and American football – is rarely seen in public, except during the odd outing on *A Question of Sport*.

Gone is the rebel who, with Ken



If the cap fits: Mark James, his rebellious days now behind him, is set to be named tomorrow as captain of the 1999 European Ryder Cup team David Ashdown

Brown, was disciplined for boorish behaviour at the 1979 match at The Greenbrier, including refusing to dress in team uniforms and attend team meetings. When James was injured after the first session, Brown initially refused to play with anyone else, then said not a word to his new partner, Des Smyth. Brown was fined £1,000 and banned from international competition for a year; James was fined a then-record £1,500.

Now, having risen to the chairmanship of the European Tournament Committee, James enjoys the respect of the other players – a vital

ingredient, according to another former captain, Bernard Gallacher. At Valderrama last September, James was a member of Ballesteros's backroom team. But his will be a more reserved captaincy, less demonic and hands-on (usual his players' clubs) than the Spaniard's. In contrast, his wife, Jane, has long been a leading cheerleader among the wives.

"Mark has played on several teams and has watched other captains – Brian Huggett, John Jacobs, Tony Jacklin, Bernard Gallacher and me," said Seve. "I am sure he will take the best from everybody."

Though his record in the match – won eight, lost 15 – is nothing special, James' early appearances came when the Americans were still dominant. More important is the fact that he has been involved so many times. At Oak Hill two years ago, when Europe went into the singles trailing, he won an important match in the number three berth in the order.

An element of unpredictability could be an advantage, and he can be relied upon to say the right things at the right time. If he might be inclined to Hoddle-esque obfuscation, he is also unlikely to rush out

his own account in hardback form immediately afterwards.

Apart from the obligatory remark that it would be an honour to do the job, James has hardly conducted a public campaign to land it. But then nor has anyone else. Ian Woosnam said he would do the job, but regretted the statement. Instead, James, who is also a member of the European tour's board of directors, became the man favoured by the executive director, Ken Schofield.

Ballesteros feels it will have helped not to have been named as early as he was. James faces only

a year before he sits down in Munich, at the end of the 1999 BMW International, to name his wild cards. Part of the trouble of attracting candidates like Bernhard Langer – Ballesteros's first choice upon his resignation – was the necessity for them to take time out from their careers when they could still make the team.

"It is definitely better that the captain has been named later than I was," Ballesteros said. "The period as captain certainly affected my career. The demands on your time are so many."

As much of an honour as the job is, Ballesteros confirms it is not to be undertaken lightly. "I have had no second thoughts about giving up the job," he said. "I don't think I will ever be captain again. I will never say never, but 99.9 per cent is no for sure."

"It was different for me because the Ryder Cup was in Spain and I am Spanish. There were some difficult times, things that were not in the script. When I was named I had a mission to win the Ryder Cup. That was achieved but there were disappointments along the way, a few bitternesses."

But for a man who has been such a part of the Ryder Cup since the European team was introduced in 1979 – since when the overall score has been 5.5-4.5 to the Americans, a vast improvement on the previous

MARK JAMES' RYDER CUP RECORD

1977
Fourfoursomes: Won 0, lost 1
Fourballs: Won 0, lost 1
Singles: Lost to Ray Floyd 2&1
1979
Fourfoursomes: Won 0, lost 1
Singles: Injured, agreed half
1981
Fourfoursomes: Won 1, lost 1
Fourballs: Won 1, lost 1
Singles: Lost to Larry Nelson 2 holes
1989
Fourfoursomes: Won 0, lost 1
Fourballs: Won 2, lost 0
Singles: Beat Mark O'Meara 3&2
1991
Fourfoursomes: Won 0, lost 2
Fourballs: Won 2, lost 0
Singles: Lost to Larry Wadkins 3&2
1993
Fourfoursomes: Won 0, lost 1
Fourballs: Won 0, lost 1
Singles: Lost to Payne Stewart 3&2
1995
Fourfoursomes: Won 0, lost 1
Singles: Beat Jeff Maggert 4&3
Overall
Fourfoursomes: Won 1, lost 7
Fourballs: Won 5, lost 4
Singles: Won 2, lost 4, tied 1
Won 8, lost 15, tied 2

one-sided nature of the contest – not to be in attendance in some capacity will seem strange.

"My goal is to play well and enjoy the game, not to play in the Ryder Cup. If I can do that I may be able to get on the team but I have played on winning teams, losing teams and been the captain. I am proud of what I have done."

"It is up to Mark who he appoints as vice-captain. It is important to have someone to exchange views with but if I am not playing, I don't think I should be there. I was spoken to informally about who should be the captain but I said I didn't want to be involved because whatever I say, I will automatically make enemies. I am not going to give any advice. If Mark asks, I will give him answers but to say things through the newspapers is not the way."

"I wish him good luck. My heart has always been in the Ryder Cup... I don't want to see it go down again." James has a lot of live up to.

Europeans confident of revenge Singh tops £1m mark

EUROPE'S STRONGEST Solheim Cup team so far must avoid the sort of last-day collapse suffered in the last two matches to win at Muirfield Village next month. In the short history of the contest, in which the Americans have an overall 3-1 lead, the strength in depth of the European side has always been called into question, writes Andy Farrell.

Evidence of the problem came in the 8-2 singles defeat at The Greenbrier four years ago and in the 10-2 thrashing in the singles at St Pierre in 1996. The latter was all the more devastating as the home side led by two points going into the final day.

But for the first time the question

facing the new captain, Pia Nilsson, as the qualifying came to an end with Annika Sorenstam's victory in the Compaq Open on Sunday, was who to leave out. Nilsson would have been happy with a 15-woman side but settled for a combination featuring six Swedes, four English players, a Scot and a Frenchwoman.

After the seven automatic qualifiers were known – Sorenstam, the world No 1, only gaining a guaranteed spot with her win – Nilsson had no hesitation in selecting Stoke-on-Trent's Lisa Hackney, last year's rookie of the year in the States, Liselotte Neumann and Catrin Nilsson as three of her five wild cards.

Nilsson, Mickey Walker's vice-captain two years ago, was also keen to include Charlotta Sorenstam, Annika's younger sister, despite the fact that the pair hardly speak, and her only dilemma was between Sophie Gustafson and Maria Hjorth, who missed out on an automatic place. Gustafson, for her long-hitting and ability to make birdies, got the place.

Catrina Matthew is one of only three Solheim rookies, along with Gustafson and the younger Sorenstam, while five players have played in all four previous matches.

"I am feeling relaxed now I know my team, because I am confident we are going to Muirfield Village to put

up a strong performance," Nilsson said. "This is a really strong side and we have a good chance of winning."

Arguably, the last two places should have gone to two young Scots, Mhairi McKay and Janice Moodie, both of whom distinguished themselves in the Curtis Cup as amateurs and are enjoying impressive debut seasons in America. But McKay is a bridesmaid at her sister's wedding the weekend of the match, while Moodie has not played enough events in Europe to be eligible.

EUROPEAN SOLHEIM CUP TEAM (in the United States, Muirfield Village, Ohio, 18-20 September): H. Nilsson, L. Davis, S. Gustafson, L. Hackney, T. Johnson, M.-J. de Lorenzi, C. Matthew, L. Neumann, A. Nilsson, C. Nilsson, A. Sorenstam, C. Sorenstam.

VJAY SINGH'S victory in the US PGA Sprint International in Castle Rock, Colorado, on Sunday has lifted him to the top of the US PGA Tour money list. The Fijian won £240,000 at the event, which raises his winnings for the year to over £1.1m, just topping the previous highest money winner, David Duval of the United States.

The win, combined with his success in last week's PGA Championship, made Singh the first player in 1998 to achieve back-to-back US tour victories.

"I'm really happy for this one," Singh said. "I have never won two in a row. It sure feels nice."

Singh is the first man to win two tournaments in a row since last year, when South Africa's Ernie Els won at Westchester straight after his US Open victory.

A 25-foot eagle putt on the 17th hole was worth five points for Singh on the Modified Stableford scoring system used in the Sprint International, giving him a total of 47 for the event, six ahead of the joint-runners-up, Willie Wood and Phil Mickelson.

Mickelson, the 1996 and 1997 winner, finished with an eagle followed by a birdie, but Singh would not surrender the bogey his rivals needed from him, and duly produced the eagle to seal his victory.

Singh insists his dramatic rise to the top will not change his life, even though he will try to win three in a row at next week's PGA World Series of Golf in Akron, Ohio.

"I don't see why it should change anything," Singh said. "I'm just going to go out there next week and try and do the same thing."

Gary Player shot a final round of 68 to win the Long Island Classic in New York by one stroke, and become the second-oldest player ever to win a Senior tour event. "Obviously it's a big thrill for me to win at this age. I really played well," Player, who will be 63 in November, commented.

TV networks have the ring boxed in

EVENTS OF last week serve to illustrate a shift in the balance of power at the business end of boxing. Last Wednesday's *New York Daily News* revealed that Naseem Hamed's next defence of the World Boxing Organisation featherweight championship would be against Wayne McCullough, the Las Vegas-based Ulsterman and former bantamweight champion, in Las Vegas, on 31 October. As of last Friday, spokesmen for Hamed's promoter, Frank Warren, were denying that this was the case.

The "leak" was attributed to the American subscription TV company Home Box Office, with whom Hamed signed a six-fight deal late last year. The announcement having emanated from the Avenue of the Americas, Manhattan, rather than Warren's Hertfordshire HQ is further cause for consternation among boxing's traditional business community.

The transatlantic discrepancy

underlines the fact that in modern boxing, the TV network increasingly attempts to assume the role of matchmaker, usurping promoters such as Warren, whose legal war with his former partner Don King erupted as a result of Warren taking Hamed away from King's exclusive American subscription TV outlet, Showtime, and signing with their bitter rivals in the ratings war.

Beyond dispute, HBO, which provides the bulk of the financial backing for both Hamed and Lennox Lewis, the World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, is the most powerful force in contemporary boxing.

The network's parent company, Time Warner Sports, spent about \$60m on boxing last year, with the bulk of that budget going on HBO's two boxing shows, *Championship Boxing* and *Boxing After Dark*, plus the network's pay-per-view presentations, transmitted under the "TVKO" banner.

In modern boxing, television rules by usurping traditional promoters to fulfil the matchmaking role. By Glyn Leach

Boxing serves the network well. Some 6.5 to 10 per cent of HBO's 25 million subscribers regularly tune in to the network's boxing programming. The TV executives appear to have decided that the future of the sport can no longer be entrusted to its traditional guardians.

In charge of the day-to-day running of HBO boxing is Lou DiBella, a 38-year-old Brooklynite who graduated from Harvard Law School but decided that a career with Sullivan & Cromwell, a prominent Wall Street law firm, was not for him. His stance is unequivocal.

"Promoters are generally the biggest obstacle to big fights occurring, and the only way to overcome that obstacle is to throw

money at them," said DiBella. "Frankly, we do that for the good of the sport – we throw money at it. Promoters don't often want to make the big fight. They're concerned about options: 'I have x-amount of dollars sunk into this guy, I want to make x-amount out of him. Why should I fight another promoter's fighter?'"

DiBella also has harsh words for the proliferation of self-appointed sanctioning bodies in boxing, describing them as "horrendous jokes that are cancers on the sport."

"But right now, the reason Evander Holyfield-Lennox Lewis isn't happening is because the promoter of Holyfield [King] is not going to risk his last major asset when he doesn't

have Lennox Lewis." DiBella claims. "The public doesn't give a rat's ass about Holyfield-Vaughn Bean or Lennox v Zelfko Mavrovic [September's mandatory defences by the respective heavyweight champions] either. But we're forced to take these mandatory fights and they're terrible."

HBO's tradition of helping facilitate the fights that matter dates back to the mid-1980s and the heavy-weight tournament that saw Mike Tyson emerge as unified heavyweight champion and the sport's biggest and, despite numerous misdemeanours, most enduring star.

"That Mike Tyson remains a bigger draw and money-maker than Evander Holyfield bothers me," said DiBella.

"I look up to and admire Evander Holyfield; I consider him to be the epitome of a champion, and he should be on a pedestal, not Mike Tyson."

"It's unfortunate that our society

is what it is, but it's not boxing, it's not sports, it's our society. Bad boys make better print."

But DiBella has faith in the ability of Hamed and Oscar De La Hoya, the World Boxing Council welterweight champion and boxing's current biggest draw, to "transcend the boxing fan to the general sports fan", as only Tyson has appeared capable of doing over the past decade.

"De La Hoya has tremendous crossover appeal and he's a real good kid as well as a tremendous fighter," he said. "We love Oscar. He's our shining star."

"Naseem? Generation X. MTV. Tremendous talent, tremendous firepower, tremendous flair. Real nice kid if you get to know him, too. Arrogant, cocky, but not mean-spirited."

DiBella terms Hamed the "first fighter of the 21st century", a century in which the television executive per se will doubtless exert yet further control over boxing, which



Hamed: Box office value

might be no bad thing. As DiBella says: "Our interest is aligned with the boxing fan. We're in the business of television. We couldn't possibly have a motive other than making the biggest fights with the greatest public interest."

And that's what boxing desperately needs.

JP 11/10/150

Non-payment haunts Gregory

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY DAVE HADFIELD

ONE OF the game's most recognisable personalities, the former coach, Andy Gregory, could find himself suspended by the Rugby League's board of directors today, when he appears in front of a committee to explain the non-payment of a £1,000 fine for abusing a referee.

The League to ban him from working, under the terms of bye-law 25B.

The former Great Britain scrum-half admitted yesterday that he had not paid the fine within the time allowed.

"But I'm not worried about it," he insisted. "If they suspend me, I'll let my solicitor and barrister sort it out."

Gregory is equally adamant that he has the backing of his club chairman, John Wilkinson, although having his coach suspended would clearly present problems.

The board might also enter

into controversial territory over the question of its continuing funding of Super League Europe. The RFL's chairman, Sir Rodney Walker, is furious over statements made by the organisation during the inaugural meeting of the International Federation in Sydney, and he and others are asking why the RFL should continue to pay the salary of SLE's managing director, Maurice Lindsay, plus another £40,000 a month.

"It's a matter that crops up on the agenda of every board meeting," the RFL's chief executive, Neil Tunncliffe, said. "I

don't know whether there will be any final conflict this week, but we are all fed up of going out and trying to do things, only to find them being questioned and long."

The International Federation has agreed an international calendar for the next four years. "But it is going to be hard to find sponsors if they get the impression that our clubs are not behind it," Tunncliffe said.

Sir Rodney might bring matters to a head by issuing a "back me or sack me" ultimatum to the meeting of the Rugby League Council next week,

when he could face questions from SLE about the cost of sending three RFL officers to Sydney.

The fall-out from last Friday's ferocious match between Wigan and Leeds has brought contrasting fortunes for two international second-rowers.

Leeds' Adrian Morley was reported for the first tackle of the match, after which the Wigan hooker, Robbie McDermott, took no further part, but has been told he has no case to answer.

Wigan's Mick Cassidy, however, will face the disciplinary

panel today over a high tackle on Morley later in the match.

Wigan fear that they have already lost one player for the rest of the season, their centre Danny Moore having suffered knee ligament damage in another tackle during the same match. Better news for Wigan is that Denis Betts is back in training after his knee injury.

The Wigan coach, John Monie, will tell Henry Paul this week that the club can only afford to keep him if he foregoes an increment to which he is entitled under the terms of his contract.

"The only way we could pay him that is by sacking two other players," Monie said.

Paul has already had talks about joining his brother, Robbie, at Bradford, but money has again been the sticking point. The Bulls, meanwhile, say that they have not secured the services of the former Leeds prop, Harvey Howard, from the Sydney club Western Suburbs for the rest of the season, although their coach, Matthew Elliott, whose own new two-year contract remains unsigned, has spoken to him. The London Broncos prop,



Andy Gregory: Defiant

Heroic homer admits drug use

Mark McGwire is on course to eclipse the legendary Babe Ruth and revelations have raised hardly an eyebrow. By Rupert Cornwell

MARK MCGWIRE is on course to shatter baseball's single-season home run record. He is all America's current sports hero, beloved of every kid (and every dad) who ever picked up a bat in a sandlot. Oh, and there's one other thing. He takes performance enhancing drugs which are banned in most of the world. But nobody gives a damn.

In any other country, news that the supreme practitioner of the national sport was taking drugs would be a sensation. Imagine Michael Owen failing a urine test, or consider the uproar across the Channel this summer when it emerged that many star riders in the Tour de France were taking tablets that most definitely weren't aspirin. But that apparently is what happens in baseball, and America hardly raises an eyebrow.

This weekend McGwire - or "Big Mac" as the St Louis Cardinals slugger is inevitably and universally known - openly acknowledged that for the last year, he had been taking androstenedione, a testosterone-producing drug which is banned by the International Olympic Committee, by American football and in all US college sports. But in baseball it is perfectly legal, and indeed is available over-the-counter in at least one chain of US health food stores.

"Everything I've done is natural," said McGwire, who keeps a jar of androstenedione on the top shelf of his locker, and also regularly uses a muscle

building amino-acid powder called Creatine. "Everybody I know in the game of baseball uses the same stuff I use."

Later the Cardinals organisation and the player himself issued a joint statement, defending androstenedione as a "natural substance" which lifted natural testosterone levels for about one hour. It had "no proven anabolic steroid effects, nor significant side effects." And there the matter almost certainly will end - because the country wants nothing to spoil this magical baseball summer of '98.

Few single moments in any sport are as thrilling as the homer. Hitting a baseball safely is difficult enough; even the best hitter fails roughly seven times out of every 10 at-bats. The home run is the climax of his art - the split second when the three-inch cylindrical bat connects perfectly with a baseball travelling at 90mph and despatches it like a missile, up and away into the crowd more than 100 yards away. And no one does it more spectacularly or more often than McGwire.

Back in 1961 Roger Maris set the existing record of 61 homers in a season, topping by one the mark of the legendary Babe Ruth 34 years before. Unlike Ruth, Maris was little more than a one-season wonder, whom America never quite forgave for erasing Ruth's name from the record book.

McGwire though is the real thing. By August 23, with 52 of the Cardinals' 162 regular games



Mark McGwire hits his 53rd home run of the season for the St Louis Cardinals against Pittsburgh Pirates on Sunday night

Reuters

left, he had already clubbed 53, two more than his closest rival Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs, and putting him on pace for a full season total of 66. He is already the only player in history to hit 50 or more homers in three successive seasons, the first two without the help of androstenedione. His career

homer rate is faster even than Ruth; indeed, McGwire can already legitimately claim to be baseball's greatest slugger ever. Certainly none can have been as awesome. He is a rippling muscle-mountain of a man, 6ft 5 in tall and weighing 174 stone, who swishes the bat like a flyswat as he crouches in

the batter's box waiting for the pitch. Some hitters send home runs arcing in graceful low parabolas. McGwire though launches his into orbit. His mightiest shot this year was measured at 548ft or 182 yards, enough to clear the pavilion at Lord's and then some.

No wonder he packs out

every ballpark where he plays, and home fans boo their own pitchers when, with eminent good sense, they decline to throw him strikes. When home run No 53 came on Sunday in Pittsburgh, and McGwire had trotted round the bases, the Pittsburgh fans demanded he come out for an encore.

Imagine the crowd at Old Trafford demanding a lap of honour from young Owen after scoring for Liverpool against Manchester United. These days though Mark McGwire transcends the usual allegiances of sport. So who's going to spoil the fun by complaining about drugs?

Call to jail Sydney cheats

DRUGS IN SPORT

THE AUSTRALIAN Olympic Committee has called on the government to jail athletes caught using anabolic steroids.

There are fears that the 2000 Sydney Olympics could become the "Drug Games" and the AOC president, John Coates, has written to Prime Minister John Howard and all state premiers pleading for "hard" drugs in sport to be treated as narcotics.

AOC officials also want potential Olympians to sign a letter promising to repay all financial grants from the committee if they test positive for a banned drug.

Meanwhile, in the latest confession of doping from former East German sports figures, the former national women's swimming team coach admitted in court yesterday that he secretly gave his athletes banned performance-enhancing drugs.

Rolf Glaeser, 58, who has worked as a coach in Austria since 1990, also apologised to his former swimmers, including the 1980 Olympic medallist Christiane Sommer, who won the medal under her maiden name. Glaeser, Sommer testified against Glaeser during the trial, and said after his confession that she wasn't sure how to react, but suspected Glaeser was hoping to reduce his sentence.

Following the confession, Glaeser's case was separated from his co-defendants, all of whom are charged with causing bodily harm for administering steroids to minors. A verdict could come as soon as tomorrow. The charge carries a maximum of three years in prison, but other coaches and sports doctors similarly charged received only fines last week after confessing in a separate trial.

Glaeser told the court he first got the pink and blue pills in 1976 from a co-defendant, Dr Dinus Bimus, who told him they helped muscle regeneration. He insisted he was not informed about possible dangers, and said he never linked the side-effects he saw, such as acne or weight gain, to the drugs. Glaeser mentioned an interview during the 1976 Montreal Olympics when he was asked about his team's deep voices, and he replied they were there to swim, not sing.

Australian tourists 'will be safe'

CRICKET

THE PAKISTAN Cricket Board insisted yesterday that Australia's touring party should have no worries about their safety during their forthcoming visit to Pakistan following the United States' missile strikes in Afghanistan.

"The tension is between America and Afghanistan. Pakistan is not involved in it and there is complete peace," said a PCB official, Rafi Naseem.

"We expect the tension will defuse in a couple of weeks and

the Australian players should go ahead with the tour," he added. The Australians are due to play three Tests and three one-day games in Pakistan, with a mini-World Cup to be played in Bangladesh in between.

Commenting on reports that last week's US military strikes on suspected terrorist bases had made the Australia Cricket Board jittery about the team's tour to Pakistan next month, Naseem said there was no trouble in Pakistan.

"We do not expect any disturbance. Rather, cricket lovers

are very anxious to witness the battle between the two best sides in the world," Naseem added.

Earlier the ACB contacted Australian foreign affairs officials to assess safety in Pakistan.

"We have sent a letter off to foreign affairs officials, although we had been in touch with them last week before the bombings when the Americans began pulling their people out," the Australian team manager, Steve Bernard, said.

"Right now things are in

hand and we will be guided by any information from foreign affairs, the high commission, the Pakistani board and so on. That's our normal procedure."

An Australian foreign office spokesman said the situation in Pakistan and Afghanistan was being monitored and reviewed daily. The current advice was to defer all non-essential travel to Pakistan.

Australia refused to travel to Sri Lanka for the first game of the 1996 World Cup after seeking advice from the foreign affairs department and high

commission in Colombo after bombings in the city.

Bernard said it was unlikely the Pakistan tour would be called off, but reiterated the safety of the players and team management was always paramount.

He and the ACB operations manager, Richard Watson, visited Pakistan earlier this month to seek assurances from the PCB chief executive, Majid Khan, that the tour was safe.

They left happy with all the tour details. But that was before the latest troubles in the region.

Nottinghamshire sack Hemmings again

EDDIE HEMMINGS, the former England off-spinner, has been sacked by Nottinghamshire for the second time in his career.

Hemmings, who was released by the county at the end of a successful 13-year playing spell in 1992, has now been relieved of his duties as bowling coach at Trent Bridge after

just 18 months. Nottinghamshire have stated that major differences of opinion led to their terminating their agreement with the former Test player.

It is understood that Hemmings, always one to express forthright views, has had disagreements with several of the county's senior bowlers.

Hemmings said: "Things

haven't worked out as planned and this is best for all concerned. I have worked as a freelance coach with a number of counties before and I hope to do so again."

The chairman of cricket, Stuart Foster, said: "We are grateful to Eddie for his contribution and hope that he finds another position in the game."

Sri Lanka beat Hampshire by five wickets in their rain-affected three-day tour game at Southampton. Chandika Hathurusingha scored an unbeaten 108 while Mahela Jayawardena just missed out on a century when he was dismissed for 90 just after tea.

Hampshire made 347 for the first day, while the whole of

the second day was washed out by rain.

Sri Lanka's opening batsman Russel Arnold had a morning he will want to forget - he was dismissed twice for naught. In the first innings he was out in the fifth ball he received before the confirmed declaration at 39 for 4, and he failed to score in the second.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

AXA League Yorkshire v Lancashire

HEADLINELEY (One Day)					
Lancashire won toss					
Lancashire	Runs	6s	4s	Bls	Mln
J P Crawley not out	16	0	1	37	50
M A Ashworth c McGrath b Fisher	13	0	1	29	43
M H Fairbrother not out	8	0	1	12	6
Baines (51 w)	8				
Total (for 1, 13 overs)	45				
Fall: 1-56					
To Bat: A Flintoff, G O Lloyd, Wasim Akram, G Yates, TW K Heggie, I O Austin, G Chappie, P J Martin.					
Bowling: C E W Silverwood 5-0-15-0, P M Hutchinson 4-0-17-0, G Gough 2-0-5-0, I O Fisher 2-0-17-1.					
Umpires: H D Bird and N T Piew.					

Vodafone Challenge Series Hampshire v Sri Lanka

SOUTHAMPTON (Day 3 of 3): Sri Lanka, with 6 wickets in hand, require 44 runs to beat Hampshire					
Sri Lanka won toss					
Hampshire	Runs	6s	4s	Bls	Mln
*S T Jayasinghe c James b Francis	11	0	2	15	36
R P Arnold c James b Morris	0	0	0	5	2
O P M Jayawardene c Kendall b Francis	3	0	0	10	10
H P Thilakaratne c Keetch b Morris	5	0	1	13	12
U U Chandana not out	18	0	1	18	21
U C Hathurusingha not out	7	0	1	12	19
Kareena (88)	3				
Total (for 4 dec, 12 overs)	58				
Fall: 1-1, 2-6, 3-21, 4-21					
To Bat: A C Morris 6-1-15-2, S R G Francis 6-2-21-2.					
Bowling: A C Morris 6-1-15-2, S R G Francis 6-2-21-2.					
Umpires: J C Bolderstone and N A Maltender.					

Women's Third Test match England v Australia

WORCESTER (Day 4 of 4): England are trailing Australia by 17 runs with 6 wickets in hand

England won toss					
England	Runs	6s	4s	Bls	Mln
*S Clark c Daniels b Smithies	136	0	12	226	299
K Rolton not out	176	1	22	226	247
M Jones c Connor b Collyer	11	0	1	25	14
S Calver c Edwards b Daniels	32	0	3	39	47
Kareena (88 w)	25				
Total (for 4 dec, 103.2 overs)	427				
Fall: 1-127, 2-301, 3-323, 4-427					
To Bat: B J Broadbent, V Price, J Franklin, O Magno, C Fitzpatrick, A Fahy.					
Bowling: I Pearson 8-0-29-0, C Taylor 15-0-84-0, C Edwards 9-2-32-0, S Redfern 5-0-28-0, K Smithies 27-7-83-2, S Collyer 16-0-69-1, M Reynolds 18-4-50-0, C Connor 3-0-20-0, B Daniels 2-2-0-1.					

England - Second Innings

England	Runs	6s	4s	Bls	Mln
C Edwards c Calver b Fahy	87	0	11	155	178
J Brittin b Fitzpatrick	8	0	0	34	36
S Daniels c Broadbent b Clark	36	0	5	103	91
*K Smithies c Calver b Fahy	32	0	5	56	54
C Connor not out	1	0	0	7	15
J Cassar not out	0	0	0	7	7
Kareena (81 w)	25				
Total (for 4, 60.2 overs)	167				
Fall: 1-21, 2-111, 3-162, 4-165					
To Bat: S Redfern, M Reynolds, S Collyer, C Taylor, L Pearson.					
Bowling: C Fitzpatrick 20-2-40-1, B Calver 10-3-23-0, O Magno 5-0-28-0, K Rolton 3-1-4-0, J Franklin 8-4-10-0, A Fahy 12-3-37-2, S Clark 2-0-10-1.					
Umpires: A Fox and J West.					

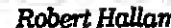
Today's fixtures

AXA LEAGUE	
Gloucestershire v Somerset, (17.00)	
Second NatWest Under 19s, (Day 1 of 4).	
Thames v England v Pakistan (11.00).	

Reid su

Blue hooker Toni Murphy; Queenslander. Those signings brought the Southern Hemisphere playing contingent up to eight. But they still need to sign two or three more players, with back-row forwards a priority, Gallagher said they would be looking for English players at the time. Whatever their nationality, they will not be City types.

■ West Hartlepool are to share Hartlepool United FC's Victoria Ground this season.



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"I think the problem was that, because I played for a once-unfashionable club called Ebbw Vale, people saw me as one of a club player. Since Vale reached the Welsh Cup final last season and have a higher profile, people are suddenly aware of us."

Despite playing at full-back during the summer, stand-off is Hayward's position, and that's where he wants to play. "I'd play prop for Wales if I was asked to, but my best position is stand off without a doubt," he says.

"I don't think any player has made the No 10 jersey his own throughout the 1990s, so I'd like to think I've got a chance now to make it mine."

And if he does, will it exorcise the frustration of his boxing career? "Oh no," Hayward replies with a rueful smile. "I'll be pleased, but I'll always regret never turning pro as a boxer. Yes, rugby's about 14 other metres as well. That's OK, but in boxing it's all down to you."

He's obviously his own man as Byron Hayward.

52-week period by the number of tournaments he played, with a minimum divisor of 12.

The current system is based on the aggregate of points earned from a player's best 16 tournaments of the year. The weeks this worst results are discarded, whether the event is Wimbledon or Shanghai.

In 2000 this is due to be replaced by a 12-month "race to the top" ATP Tour world championship. Rankings will be based on a player's results in 18 tournaments — the four Grand Slams and the ATP Tour's new "Super 9" will all count along with a player's next best five events.

These rankings will be updated week by week, aside to the points table which currently divides which eight players qualify for the year-end ATP Championships in Hannover.

As Sampras says: "It should be [termed] a standing rather than a ranking. It really comes down to the end of the year, that when we should talk about rankings." Here, then, are this week's top 10 standings on the road to Hannover: Rios, Sampras, Agassi, Corretja, Moy, Rafter, Kucera, Krjetic and Alfiere Costa. Henman is No 11.

[illegible]

European Championships: Team spirit to the fore in a make-or-break event for British athletics. Now Lausanne looms

Britain's golden gang to take on the world

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM
in Budapest

DENISE LEWIS, who left Budapest yesterday as European heptathlon champion, had been competing under strict instructions. Her friends and neighbours near her childhood home in Wolverhampton were expecting to be able to hold another street party just as they had when she won Olympic bronze and, last year, world silver.

"My mum's garage will be decorated again," Lewis said as she contemplated a victory that, for its mixture of talent and application, mirrored the wider achievement of Britain's team.

The British performance in achieving their best-ever showing at a European Championships - top of the medals table, with a total of nine that they have only equalled once, eight years ago in Split - has come at an ideal point. After the widespread and unwarranted criticism of British athletes' performance in the 1996 Olympics, and the subsequent financial collapse of the British Athletic Federation last October, the

week has been the cost of competition. Many of the athletes who have emerged into the public eye at these championships have paid tribute to a National Lottery-funding programme that has allowed them to travel and train full-time.

Young talents such as Darren Campbell, the 100 metres winner, and the 200m gold and bronze medalists, Doug Walker and Julian Golding, have clearly benefited from a system that appears to be working efficiently now after a woefully slow start.

The experience of these young athletes is shared by others in sports, such as triathlon and women's modern pentathlon, that will be part of the 2000 Olympic Games. After her recent victory in the modern pentathlon World Cup, Britain's Kate Allenby said: "The Lottery money is definitely making a difference. This was the best result of my career."

The funding also appeared to be working for Britain at the recent World Junior Championships, where, thanks to the efforts of Christian Malcolm at 100 and 200m, David Parker in the javelin and Julie Pratt in the 100m hurdles, Britain finished with a record number of four golds, with only China and Russia above them.

Max Jones, Britain's chief coach, described the events of the past week as being crucial to British athletics. On Friday the Sports Council will consider a six-year plan submitted by the sport that will seek annual lottery funding at three times the current level, which is £2m.

If the display Britain put up in the Neptadion does not help their case, then nothing can. For Dave Moorcroft, who has shouldered the main burden of reconstructing British athletics as chief executive of UK Athletics 98, the champagne celebrations that took place at the side of the track on Sunday night were a richly deserved reward. But even as the champagne dried on his track-suit, Moorcroft was aware of another looming deadline for the sport.

Diane Modahl, still seeking compensation from the BAF after her successful appeal against a doping ban, has given the current administration until 1 September to settle for a figure that has been estimated at close to £500,000. Otherwise, according to Modahl's husband and manager, Vicente, the case will proceed to court with potential costs of more than £2m for British athletics.

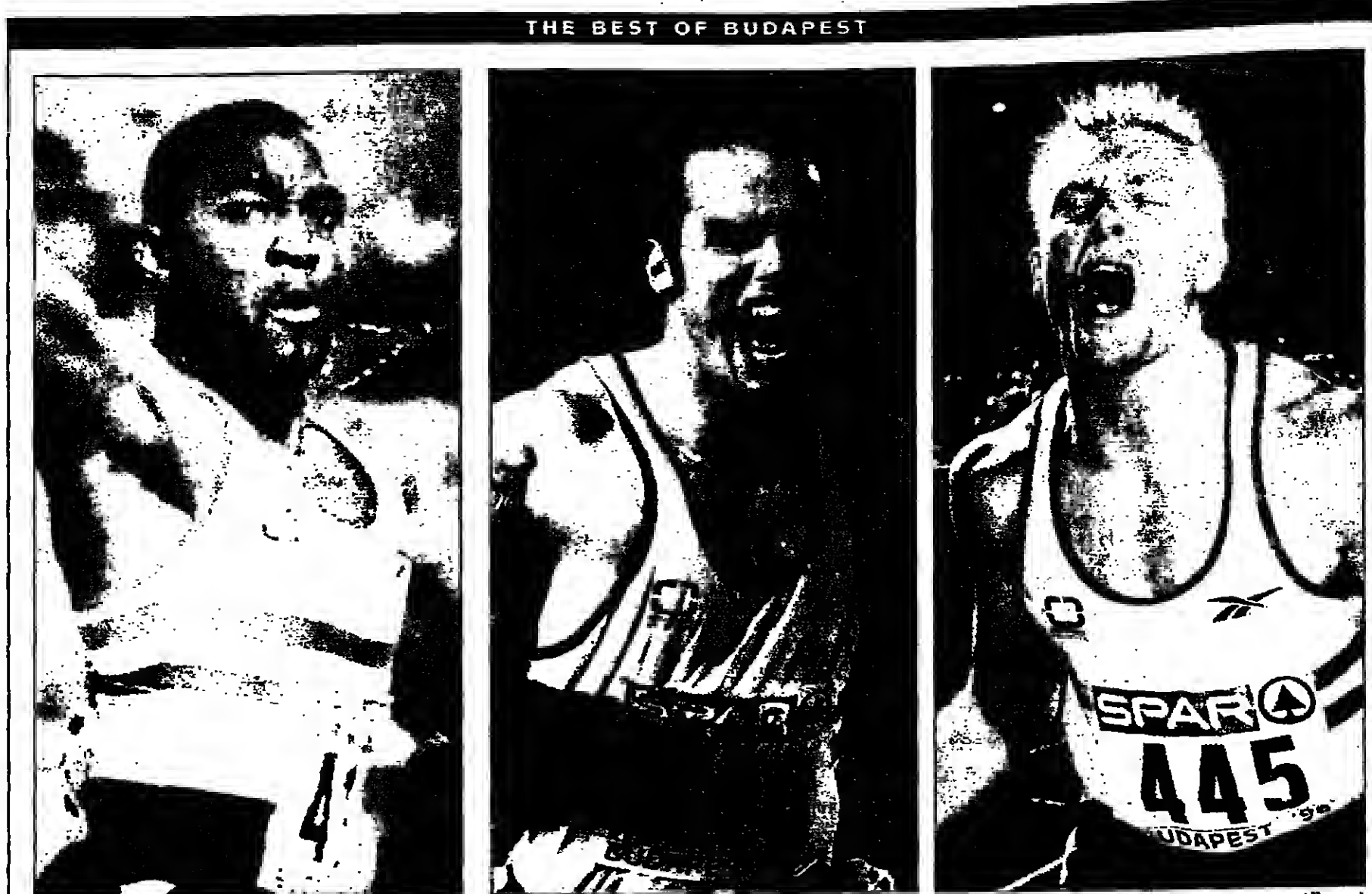
But for now attention is focused on those who have earned success in Budapest. Tonight in Lausanne, four of the gold medalists - Jonathan Edwards, Colin Jackson, Steve Backley and Darren Campbell - return to the grand prix circuit to measure their achievements in world terms. It will be tougher for some than others.

Campbell, who spoke of his ambition of "mixing it with the big boys" after winning the European title last held by his mentor, Linford Christie, now has his wish. The field in Switzerland includes the world champion Maurice Greene, the world 200m champion, Ato Boldon, and the Olympic silver medalist at both sprints, Frankie Fredericks.

Britain's double world junior sprint champion, Christian Malcolm, will also be involved.

Jackson, too, faces a step-up in terms of competition against the Americans who beat him over 110 metres hurdles at last month's Goodwill Games, including the world champion, Allen Johnson.

Backley faces a number of those he beat in Hungary, with the possi-



Gold medal winners. The rising stars ... Darren Campbell, 100 metres, Doug Walker, 200 metres, and Iwan Thomas, 400 metres

Allsport

FINAL MEDALS TABLE

	G	S	B	Total
Britain	9	4	3	16
Germany	8	7	8	23
Russia	6	9	7	22
Poland	3	4	1	8
Romania	3	2	1	6
Ukraine	2	4	3	9
Italy	2	3	1	6
Portugal	2	1	4	7
Spain	2	1	1	4
France	2	0	1	3
Ireland	2	0	1	3
Hungary	1	1	0	2
Bulgaria	1	0	3	4
Greece	1	0	2	3
Estonia	1	0	0	1
Czech Republic	0	2	1	3
Finland	0	2	1	3
Switzerland	0	1	1	2
Latvia	0	1	0	1
Slovenia	0	1	0	1
Sweden	0	1	0	1
Belarus	0	0	2	2
Austria	0	0	1	1
Lithuania	0	0	1	1
Netherlands	0	0	1	1
Norway	0	0	1	1

BRITAIN'S MEDALISTS

GOLD	
100m	Darren Campbell
200m	Doug Walker
400m	Iwan Thomas
110m hurdles	Colin Jackson
Men's 4x100m relay team	Jonathan Edwards, Steve Backley, Colin Jackson, Darren Campbell
Triple Jump	Jonathan Edwards
Javelin	Steve Backley
Heptathlon	Denise Lewis
SILVER	
100m	Dwain Chambers
200m	Doug Walker
High Jump	Dalton Grant
Javelin	Mick Hill
BRONZE	
200m	Julian Golding
400m	Mark Richardson
Women's 4x400m relay team	

image of this domestic sport had plummeted in terms of public esteem.

But the men's successful defence of the European Cup in June signalled a new sense of optimism that became transformed into one of overwhelming confidence over the course of the past six days in Hungary.

One of the underlying reasons for a success that British television viewers have been witnessing all week with an athletics version of football's World Cup team - Des and the boys, Linford and Rog - has been team spirit.

"There are a lot of like minds in the team right now," Lewis said. "There have been factions in the past, but not now. Everybody is backing everybody. Maybe it is because many of the team are so young. Everyone is feeding off each other's energy, enjoying the art of competition, the beauty of competition."

Another underlying factor this



The veterans ... Steve Backley, javelin, Jonathan Edwards, triple jump, Colin Jackson, 110m hurdles, and Denise Lewis, heptathlon

Allsport/Empics



... and the baton bearers. The 4x100m relay squad, left to right: Allyn Condon, Julian Golding, Darren Campbell and Doug Walker; and, right, the 4x400m squad: Mark Richardson, Mark Hyton, Iwan Thomas and Jamie Baulch

Allsport/IAP

African quest for Budapest heroes

BRITAIN'S EUROPEAN Championship heroes have been given the chance to keep on the glory trail by tackling the world's best next month.

The six men's gold medalists from Budapest and the victorious relay squads have been selected en masse for the World Cup in South Africa on 11-13 September. Britain, whose men

qualified by winning the European Cup in St Petersburg last June, will face Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, the Americas, the United States and Germany.

"In the European Cup we were competing against other nations: in the World Cup we will be competing against continents," said Max Jones,

Britain's team director. "It is going to be a very strong World Cup, and I think the American team will be awesome."

The men will be chasing the £50,000 on offer to winners in the one-man-per-event competition. Darren Campbell, Europe's new 100m champion, has been named in the 27-strong squad, although he is

discussing with his coach, Linford Christie, whether to take part.

Campbell faces his first big test since his victory in Hungary when he lines up against several of the world's top sprinters in the post-championships meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, tonight.

The Belgrave Harrier is ex-

pected to face Trinidad's Ato Boldon, who beat him to two junior world titles in 1992 and went on to take the world 200m crown in Athens last year.

"I respect Ato and I think he respects me," said Campbell, who added that Boldon's success was his inspiration when he returned to the sport after a flirtation with football.

Yesterday, as he travelled out to Lausanne, the recollection of his final triple jump of 17.59m in the Neptadion still raised a smile. It was the very last action of the championships. In that it was allowed to take place after the traditional finale of the 400m relay.

Edwards, who had already won the gold, relished his opportunity to

perform an individual farewell to 47,000 supporters who clapped in unison as he stood on the runway.

But the efficiency of his effort took him back.

"I still don't know where that jump came from," he said yesterday. "I was fired by then and I wasn't expecting anything that long. It wasn't even a technically good jump - my

step wasn't right. If I had been tighter on that, I would have been close to my world record."

That record - 18.29m - is clearly within range once again for the 32-year-old Goshorth athlete. And his celebrations afterwards, with the Union Jack draped over his shoulders, were more expansive than ever before.

"I was talking to one of the national coaches, Tudor Bider, beforehand," he said, "and he emphasised to me that I had a God-given talent and that I should allow myself to enjoy it."

Which is what he did. And so did all who witnessed what served as a fitting climax to six memorable and significant days for British athletics.

BRITISH TEAM FOR WORLD CUP

World Cup: Johannesburg, SA, 11-13 September
100 metres: Darren Campbell (Belgrave)
200m: Doug Walker (Newham & Essex Beagles)
400m: Iwan Thomas (N&EB)
800m: Andy Hart (Coventry Godiva)
1500m: John Mayock (Canmore & Staffs)
3,000m: Anthony Whiteman (GEC Avionics)
5,000m: Keith Cullen (Chelmsford)
110m hurdles: Colin Jackson (Brecon)
400m hurdles: P Gray (Cardiff)
3,000m steeplechase: C Stephenson (Cardiff)
High Jump: Dalton Grant (Haringey)
Pole Vault: Nick Buckfield (Crawley)
Long Jump: Steve Phillips (Rugby)

Triple Jump: Jonathan Edwards (Gateshead)
Shot: Mark Proctor (N&EB)
Discus: Bob Weir (Birchfield)
Hammer: Mick Jones (Belgrave)
Javelin: Steve Backley (Cambridge Harriers)
4x100m relay: Campbell, Walker, Dwain Chambers (Belgrave), Allyn Condon (Sale Harriers), Mark Hyton (Coventry Godiva), Julian Golding (Blackheath)
4x400m relay: Thomas, Sean Baldock (Belgrave), Jamie Baulch (Cardiff), Mark Hyton (Windsor, Slough & Eton), Mark Richardson (WS&E), Solomon Wariso (Haringey), Travelling reserve: Matt Yates (Belgrave)

Handwritten note: 100m 15.50

Wenger warns of striker fatigue

FOOTBALL

ARSENAL WENGER fears Dennis Bergkamp and many of the Premiership's leading players are in danger of suffering from World Cup burn-out. The Arsenal manager claims that only two games into the new season his Dutch striker is experiencing fatigue after reaching the semi-finals of France 98.

Wenger said: "Dennis Bergkamp is not at his best at the moment, he knows that. But it is mainly physically because he only started training on 1 August and had a small setback injury-wise against Manchester United in the Charity Shield.

"And he has played just two games now - one last Monday against [Nottingham] Forest and one at Anfield. He's not as sharp as he used to be, but that is a question of time. For us it is important to get our players slowly back to full fitness without us dropping too many points."

Wenger is also worried that later in the season the stamina of Bergkamp and fellow Dutch international, Marc Overmars, may be affected after two seasons of near-continuous football. But he feels that the French midfielders, Patrick Vieira and Emmanuel Petit, have the ability to stay fit despite their part in the host nation's success.

He said: "It's not quite the same for the other World Cup players because up front you need to be really sharp to make a difference but in midfield they have the stamina."

"We might have a different problem with Bergkamp and Overmars later on in the season because they need more stamina and physical power by then. So they could have a problem around October and November with overall fitness. But for Dennis it's a question of sharpness and overall fitness - two different problems, really."

The Liverpool co-manager Roy Evans is also worried about the fitness of his World Cup players, with the England

striker Michael Owen entering his second full season at the age of 18.

He said: "Most clubs are in the same position. Before the season started we decided that everybody should get at least three weeks' holiday, maybe a touch more, if they could. It's important for the rest of the season. Leads came back from the World Cup later than the rest and it will take them a week or two more to regain their sharpness. It's just that extra 5 or 10 per cent that makes them the great players that they are. The effort is there but they all need that little bit more edge."

The former Tottenham captain, Gary Mabbutt, has appealed for Spurs fans to give the manager Christian Gross more time as they continue to turn against him and chairman Alan Sugar in increasing numbers.

Tottenham's 3-0 weekend defeat at home to Sheffield Wednesday, following a 3-0 defeat at Wimbledon, led to angry demonstrations at White Hart Lane on Saturday, calling for Gross and Sugar to quit the club.

An offer from the former Atletico Madrid manager Radoy Antic to take over, as well as a report that Sugar was driven to the point of deciding this week whether to sell his stake in the club, have hardly helped matters. However, Mabbutt feels that it is far too early in the season for pressure to be mounting on the Swiss head coach, given that this is Gross' first full season in charge.

The Tottenham stalwart, who left the club in the summer, said: "I totally understand the fans' frustrations as they have been starved of success for the past six years and have been living in Arsenal's shadow. But even in the harshest of circles, you can't be talking about managerial changes after just two games."

Mabbutt added: "The fans will obviously voice their opinions and I'm sure that the manager and chairman understand their feelings."



Bert Vogts, the Germany coach, yesterday reveals the new players he trusts will bring the good times back

Reuters

Ruthless Vogts has clear-out

GERMANY

AFTER ALL the debate over the future of the old guard from Germany's under-achieving World Cup squad, Bert Vogts yesterday revealed the new men charged with the responsibility of restoring success to the national side.

Vogts, Germany's coach, yesterday included eight untried players in his squad for two friendly matches next week. He has vowed to build a new team following his ageing side's disappointing quarter-final defeat to Croatia in France.

Only 10 of the 24 players named for fixtures in Malta on 2 September and in Romania three days later were members of the World Cup squad. "A new era for German football is starting," Vogts said. "We need young blood."

Jürgen Klinsmann, Thomas Helmer, Jürgen Kohler and Olaf Thon have all chosen to end their international careers, while Andreas Köpcke, Lothar Matthäus, Stefan

Reuter, Steffen Freund, Thomas Hässler, Andreas Möller and Christian Ziege have all been dropped.

As expected, Vogts has recalled Stefan Effenberg, the temperamental Bayern Munich midfielder who has not played for his country since he was sent home from the 1994 World Cup finals for making an obscene gesture to supporters, while the newcomers are the defenders Mustafa Dogan and Marco Reimer, the midfielders Michael Ballack, Stefan Beinlich, Christian Nerlinger and Marco Reich, and the strikers Oliver Neuville and Paul Rick. Beinlich may be remembered by Aston Villa fans - he plays for Bayer Leverkusen. He was born in Brazil, but had a German great-grandfather who emigrated to South America in 1908.

Those who have been discarded received some words of comfort from the coach. "I talked a lot with the older players to explain to them why they were not part of my plans,"



AROUND THE WORLD BY RUPERT METCALF

is the 25-year-old Riker, who plays for Bayer Leverkusen. He was born in Brazil, but had a German great-grandfather who emigrated to South America in 1908.

Those who have been discarded received some words of comfort from the coach. "I talked a lot with the older players to explain to them why they were not part of my plans,"

Vogts said. "It was not easy because I've known them for years, but we need to build a new team and I'll do it, whatever the price."

SWEDEN

THE NEW issue of Fifa News, the monthly magazine of world football's ruling body, contains some good news for Thomas Ravelli.

Without strapping on a glove or lacing up a boot, the balding Swedish goalkeeper has become the globe's most-capped player. Fifa has investigated the 147 caps claimed by the previous holder of this accolade, Saudi Arabia's Majid Abdullah, and has found that five of them were awarded for matches not deemed to be full internationals, thus reducing his tally to 142 caps.

So, Ravelli, with 143 caps, is now at the top of a distinguished list. He may not have too many years to savour his claim to fame, though. While Germany's Lothar Matthäus

(third in line with 129 caps) and Spain's Andoni Zubizarreta (126) are unlikely to win any more caps, there are two American players who may surpass Ravelli's total within two or three years.

The 31-year-old Marcelo Balboa has 124 caps but a more likely long-term candidate to top the list is the 28-year-old Cobi Jones, the former Coventry City forward, who already has 110 caps.

IRAN

JALAL TALEBI's taste of international footballing fame is, it appears, over. The man who took over as Iran's national coach three weeks before the World Cup finals has resigned for "family reasons".

Although Iran did not progress from the first round in the France, Talebi and his team were welcomed home as heroes because of their victory over the United States. He will return to his previous post as the squad's technical advisor.

Reggae Boy Gardner on stand-by Amoroso feeling the heat

RICARDO GARDNER, the Jamaican World Cup player, is in line to make his Bolton debut at Hartlepool tonight as his new club attempt to avoid an embarrassing early exit from the Worthington Cup.

Wanderers were unconvincing as they ground out a 1-0 victory at the Reehok Stadium in the first leg two weeks ago and the Third Division side go into the rematch with high hopes of causing an upset.

The Bolton manager, Colin Todd, is looking to Reggae Boy Gardner, a 21m summer signing from Harbour View who

played in all three of his country's World Cup matches in France, to call the tune.

The 19-year-old Gardner was on the bench in the 2-2 draw at Bradford on Sunday and Todd said: "Ricardo is in the squad for Hartlepool, but I haven't made any definite decisions about the team yet. The most important thing for us is to keep the continuity in the side."

"But we'll be going in positively and we'll be trying to extend our 1-0 lead, not trying to protect it."

The former PSV Eindhoven striker Eidur Gudjohnsen could also make his debut, but

Scott Sellers, Keith Brazanag and Robbie Elliott are still sidelined, while Michael Johansen is suspended.

Crystal Palace, like Bolton relegated from the Premiership last year, will be guarding against going out prematurely when they host Torquay.

The Eagles went out of the competition, then called the Coca-Cola Cup, at the second-round stage last year after losing on away goals to Hull. They go into their first round, second leg clash with the Third Division side level at 1-1.

"It'll be a hard game against Torquay," the Palace manager,

Terry Venables, said. "We got caught early on by a goal at their place and they deserved to go one-up against us."

Palace have drawn with Bolton, lost at Birmingham and beaten Oxford in their first three matches back in the First Division. Saturday's 2-0 defeat of Oxford was their last match and Venables added: "One swallow doesn't make a summer, as they say, but there have been good bits and pieces of our play so far this season."

Palace have two main injury doubts, with Paul Warhurst and striker Matt Jansen struggling with hamstring problems.

LORENZO AMOROSO last night walked into more controversy after claiming that Colin Hendry's arrival has made it more difficult for him to be accepted as the Rangers captain.

The Italian defender has found himself under pressure recently with a series of mistakes on the field since being handed the Ibrox captaincy by the new coach, Dick Advocaat.

Amoroso's temperament for the job has also been called into question after he appeared to be involved in a dispute with his German team-mate, Jorg Alberts, following Rangers' 3-1 win at Kilmarnock on Saturday.

Amoroso, who missed all but a couple of months of last season with a succession of knee problems following his 24m transfer from Fiorentina, said: "A foreigner, and on top of that an Italian, has become captain of Rangers, and Scottish people are struggling to accept that. Colin Hendry is a Scotland international and a local hero, and a lot of people want him to be the captain."

Amoroso is fully aware that Rangers will need strong hearts and minds if they are to sweep aside FAOK Solonika in the second leg of their Uefa Cup preliminary round second leg tie in Greece.

Rangers will be wary particularly after Arsenal, the English league and cup double winners, were beaten there 1-0 in last season's competition. But the Ibrox side go into the match with the advantage of a 3-0 lead from the first leg.

The Kilmarnock manager, Bobby Williamson, admits he is hoping for a timely dose of travel sickness to affect his Czech opponents as he attempts to prolong his team's European dream. The Rugby Park side face a huge task to recover a 2-0 deficit against Sigma Olomouc in the second leg of their Uefa Cup qualifier.

Double injury blow to Britain

EQUESTRIANISM

By GENEVIEVE MURPHY

TWO OF Britain's leading three-day event horses, Word Perfect II and Cosmopolitan II, have sustained minor injuries and will not be able to compete in the World Equestrian Games, to be held in Italy in October. Both had been considered automatic choices for the team which defends the world title won in The Hague four years ago.

Word Perfect, who was Christopher Bartle's winning partner at Badminton this year, damaged a tendon in his off foreleg during a routine training gallop last week. The 10-year-old will be off for the rest of the season. "Obviously I'm deeply disappointed, but it's a very slight injury which will heal given time," Bartle said.

Cosmopolitan, the mount of William Fox-Pitt, was injured on Sunday during the Scottish Open Championships at Thriestane Castle, where he was pulled up after landing awkwardly at the third fence from home. On examination yesterday morning, Cosmopolitan was slightly lame on his near fore.

Fox-Pitt has had three months off himself, having broken a leg in a fall at the end of April. He had cast-iron claims for selection, having won team gold and individual silver medals with Cosmopolitan at last year's European Championships, where he was best of the British quartet, which also included Bartle.

The selectors will be hoping that nothing goes wrong with the 13 other shortlisted horses during the final trial at Henbury Hall in Cheshire this weekend. The World Games squad is due to be announced next Tuesday.

Taylor is overrun by Holt

SNOOKER

DENNIS TAYLOR'S swansong on the professional circuit this season will not include an appearance at the Liverpool Victoria UK Championship in November after he was beaten by Derby's Michael Holt in the final qualifying round at Plymouth Pavilions yesterday.

Taylor, who only last week announced his intention to retire at the end of the current campaign, was whitewashed 5-0 by Holt, who at 20 years old, is 29 years the junior of Taylor, who won the world championship in 1985.

Holt required only 85 minutes to secure his place in the tournament proper, to be held at Bournemouth. Breaks of 88, 88 and 47 played a major part in helping him comfortably progress past his older rival.

Hong Kong's Marco Fu recovered from a 4-1 deficit to edge out Earl Broughton, of Grimsby, 5-4. It was Fu's ninth consecutive match victory as he marched on to the televised stages of the tournament.

Digest, page 23

SPORTING DIGEST

AMERICAN FOOTBALL
NFL exhibition matches: Cincinnati 33 Detroit 19; New England 20 Washington 17; Minnesota 25 Carolina 22; Pittsburgh 28 Atlanta 22; St. Louis 22 Dallas 14; Kansas City 22 Jacksonville 21; Tennessee 26 New Orleans 24; Seattle 31 Arizona 24; Miami 21 San Francisco 20.

BASEBALL
American League: Cleveland 4 Baltimore 1; Kansas City 11 Tampa Bay 5; Boston 5 Minnesota 1; Anaheim 3 Toronto 2; Detroit 5 Oakland 4; Seattle 3 Chicago White Sox 2; Texas 12 New York Yankees 10.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cincinnati 10 Montreal 0; Colorado 3 Philadelphia 2; Pittsburgh 4 St. Louis 3; Arizona 4 New York Mets 3; San Diego 13 Milwaukee 11 (10 innings); Houston 13 Chicago Cubs 3; San Francisco 10 Florida 5; Atlanta 12 Los Angeles 7.

BOXING
Manchester's unbeaten Michael Brodie will have home crowd support when he challenges Sergei Devletov for the European super-bantamweight title. The 24-year-old British champion and mandatory European Boxing Union challenger will face Devletov at Bowlers, Manchester on 17 October.

EQUESTRIANISM
Katie Meacham, a 36-year-old three-day event rider, died yesterday morning after sustaining fatal injuries in a car crash on Sunday. She had represented Great Britain in the 1991 European Championships in Ireland, where she finished 15th on Montana Blue.

FOOTBALL
Major League Soccer: Los Angeles 1 New England 1; Columbus 3 Tampa Bay 1; Washington DC 2 New

York-New Jersey 1; San Jose 1 Dallas 1; San Jose 1 New York Yankees 1; Kansas City 3; Miami 0.

GERMANY SQUAD (friendly vs. Maldives, 2 Sept; Germany, 5 Sept): Goalkeepers: Kuhn (Bayern Munich), Lehmann (Wolfsburg), Radebe (Liverpool), Brehme (Borussia Dortmund), Reuber (Borussia Dortmund), Metzger (Borussia Dortmund).

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SPORT

THE WORLD IS NEXT FOR BRITAIN'S GOLDEN GANG P22 • JAMES TO TAKE RYDER REINS P18

Super league
strides forward

FOOTBALL

BY NICK HARRIS

A EUROPEAN super league moved a giant step closer yesterday when the continent's leading clubs met in London to discuss proposals for the competition and were given assurances it would be beneficial for the game as a whole.

Rodolfo Hecht, the president of Media Partners - the Milan-based marketing and sports rights company behind the plan - told representatives of the clubs, including Manchester United and Arsenal, that qualification for the competition would be based, to some extent at least, on merit.

Hecht also assured the clubs they could expect much higher revenues from the proposed competition than they receive from current European competitions and added his company wanted to work alongside national associations and Uefa, European football's governing body, to bring the super league plan to fruition.

"Media Partners can confirm that a productive meeting took place today in London with a number of Europe's leading football clubs," said a statement issued yesterday by the company. "The well-attended meeting discussed further the proposals to develop the European Football League."

Precise details of Media Partners' plans were not announced, but it is understood the league being considered may consist of up to 32 teams in two divisions. There will also be a European knock-out cup tournament, featuring 60-plus other sides and provisionally called the Pro Cup. The competitions would replace the three existing European tournaments - the Champions' League, the Uefa Cup and the Cup-Winners' Cup - but would not threaten domestic club competitions, which would continue to operate as now.

A source close to Media Partners said after yesterday's meeting: "The project is moving ahead with enthusiasm and great momentum."

No official comment has been made by any of the clubs approached to take part in the league, but a source close to Manchester United said: "To be honest, the tide is turning. The [Media Partners'] proposals are gaining a lot of merit."

Media Partners' plans essentially differed from current competitions in that participating clubs would be financially better off. "All that's happening is that more money is released," the source added.

"For the clubs themselves, it is looking attractive."

Yesterday's meeting was the first of three this week that could see a super league become reality in the near future. The second meeting, in Geneva today, will see the Professional Leagues' Committee - the heads of the major European leagues, including Peter Leaver, chief executive of the Premier League - discuss Media Partners' proposals and decide how they want European club competitions to change.

The Committee, set up over a year ago to make representations to Uefa about how the continent's domestic leagues feel European club competitions should be run, is long known to have felt change is needed in European football. Their hand in negotiations with Uefa will have been strengthened by yesterday's events.

The third meeting - and perhaps the most decisive - will see Uefa's Executive Committee convene in Monaco on Saturday to discuss recent events and decide how to progress. Saturday's meeting will be attended not only by Lennart Johansson, Uefa's president, but also by Sepp Blatter, the head of Fifa, world football's governing body. Blatter's invitation to attend signifies how seriously Uefa is taking Media Partners' plans, and may also signal Uefa intends to announce sweeping changes to European club football.

It has been reported Uefa is considering enlarging the Champions' League from 24 to 32 teams and merging the Uefa and Cup-Winners' Cups. But whether this would satisfy those clubs contemplating a super league is debatable. Another possibility is that Uefa would consider working alongside Media Partners, and despite denials from Uefa that this is the case, it seems an increasingly likely option.

A European super league now seems inevitable in the near future, and unless Uefa is flexible - such as taking the role of "league regulator" reportedly offered by Media Partners - it may find itself isolated, and no longer influential in the game. Ultimately, financial considerations are likely to decide matters. Media Partners is promising to not only generate more revenue - something that the company's background in pay-per-view may help deliver - but also to provide most of it to the participating clubs. Uefa, which is increasingly losing the confidence of the biggest clubs under its umbrella, will have to offer at least as much to keep clubs interested. A long week lies ahead.

More football, page 23

THREE STEPS TO A REVOLUTION

The meetings that could change the face of European football

1 When: Yesterday

Where: London

Who: Rodolfo Hecht, president of Media Partners; plus representatives of Europe's leading football clubs, including Manchester United, Arsenal, Milan, Barcelona, Real Madrid, Bayern Munich, Juventus, Internazionale and Ajax.

Agenda: Hecht outlined Media Partners' proposals in full, including, crucially, that participation in its competitions (a league and a knock-out cup) will be based, to some extent, on merit.

2 When: Today

Where: Geneva

Who: The European Professional Leagues' Committee, including Italy's Antonio Matarrese (the committee president and also a Uefa vice-president), Peter Leaver (chief executive of the Premier League), Franco Carraro (head of the Italian league), Gerhard Aigner (Uefa general secretary); plus the heads of the football leagues of Portugal, Romania, Netherlands, France, Germany, Belgium, Austria and Spain.

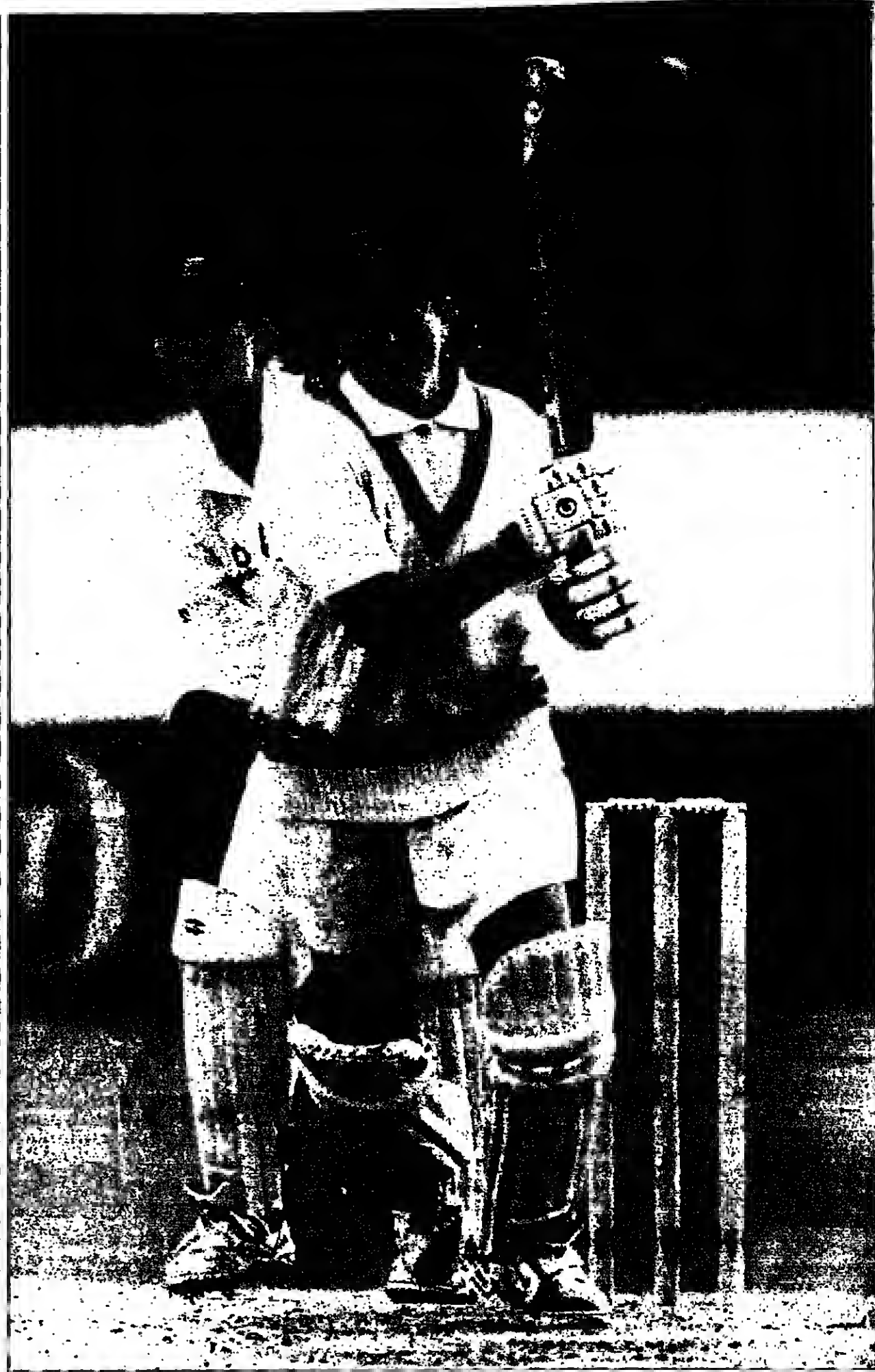
Agenda: To discuss Media Partners' proposals and consider how European club competitions should be changed. Possible outcome will be an ultimatum to Uefa to change its tournaments drastically (and soon, after close consultation with national leagues), or lose control.

3 When: Saturday

Where: Monaco

Who: The Uefa Executive Committee, including Lennart Johansson, Uefa's president; Antonio Matarrese; and committee members from Germany, Turkey, Norway, Ireland, Czech Republic, Russia, Cyprus, Malta, Switzerland, Netherlands, Spain. Plus: Sepp Blatter, the president of Fifa, world football's governing body. His invitation suggests Uefa feels radical changes to football are imminent.

Agenda: What next for European football? Uefa said at the weekend it has its own changes planned for its competitions. These might be expansion of the Champions' League and merging of the two knock-out cups. The key issue will be: Can Uefa match the revenue being offered by Media Partners, or should it consider working alongside the company?



The England wicket-keeper, Jane Cassar, looks on as Australia's Brownie Calver hits out on her way to 24 in the final day's play of the second women's Test at Worcester yesterday. Reports, scoreboard, page 19; Allsport

Boro hunt Ferguson
as Solksjaer stays put

BY ALAN NIXON

BRYAN ROBSON, the Middlesbrough manager, has targeted the Everton captain Duncan Ferguson and although the imposing Scottish striker is officially not for sale an offer of around £5m could be accepted.

Aston Villa are also understood to be interested in signing Ferguson amid speculation that the Everton manager, Walter Smith, would part with him at the right price.

One striker who will be staying put in the immediate future is Ole Gunnar Solksjaer, Manchester United's Norwegian forward disappointing Tottenham yesterday by turning down a £5m move to the Premiership's joint-bottom club.

Solksjaer has now been assured by the United manager,

Alex Ferguson, that he can fight for his place at Old Trafford despite rival interest from Everton and Leeds United.

Everton were informed by United yesterday that Solksjaer is not for sale and they, along with Leeds, have been ruled out of any deal.

United's Jaap Stam is fit and will face LKS Lodz in tomorrow's Champions' League qualifying match in Poland. The Dutch defender missed Saturday's game at West Ham with a slight thigh strain but has recovered and trained yesterday.

However, Gary Neville is out for a month after straining a hamstring injury at Upton Park. He will miss England's European Championship qualifier against Sweden on 5 September.

Villa's Gareth Southgate has been linked with a £7m move to

Spurs to join up in defence with his England team-mate Sol Campbell.

Italy's leading anti-drugs investigator is expected to fly to London for talks with Chelsea's Gianluca Vialli, Roberto Di Matteo, Gianfranco Zola and Pierluigi Casiraghi. Ugo Longo, who heads an enquiry by the Italian Olympic Committee, Coni, had been expecting the Stamford Bridge Italians in Rome today. But Coni officials have had no reply to their faxed invitation.

The doping issue emerged when the Roma coach Zdenek Zeman claimed earlier this month that there was widespread drug abuse in Serie A. However, there has never been any suggestion of drug use by Chelsea's imports and Vialli, the club's player-coach, has threatened to sue Zeman.

Modahl turns up the heat

ATHLETICS

DIANE MODAHL has given the bankrupt British Athletic Federation a seven-day ultimatum to come up with a satisfactory compensation figure or face further legal action.

Modahl is suing BAF placed in administration last October with debts of around £2m, after successfully fighting a four-year ban for "bailing" a drugs test and being sent home from the 1994 Commonwealth Games.

The 32-year-old, who had to sell her Sale home to fund the long-running legal battle, is suing for £200,000, although her

lawyers have been negotiating with the Federation's administrators to reach a settlement.

The administrators cannot pay other creditors until agreement with Modahl, who competed in the 800m for Britain at the European Championships in Budapest, is reached.

"The administrators have a clear choice," Modahl's statement said. "Either they persuade the other creditors to fund the legal costs of fighting the case to trial, or they continue discussions with us with a view to resolving all outstanding issues."

"The sensible outcome would

be for the administration to be completed and for all the creditors to receive a distribution."

Modahl stressed that she wants to reach an out-of-court settlement as soon as possible.

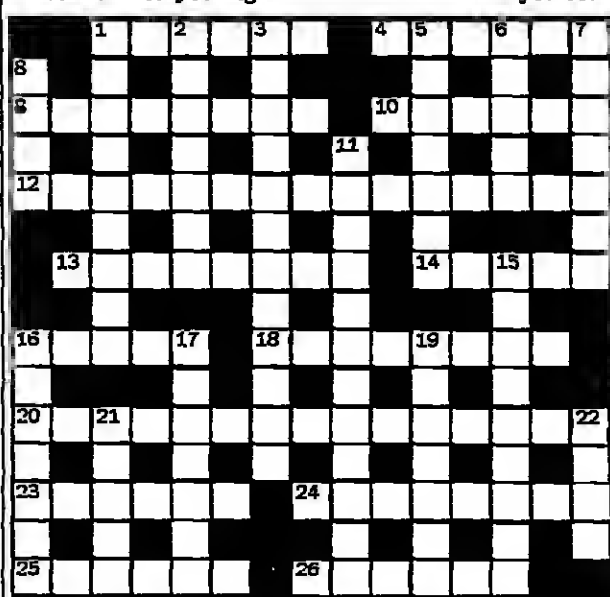
"I am prepared to compromise but the ball is not in my court," she said. "I have almost been too nice with the administrators, too welcoming and too prepared to say let's go forward. You have to remember it was me who was wronged. It was me who was shamed. It was me who was sent home from the Commonwealth Games and me who was not allowed to defend my title."

THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3698, Tuesday 25 August

By Aelfred

Monday's Solution



ACROSS

- 1 Rely on getting energy from profound part (6)
- 4 See father coil oddity in sport (6)
- 9 Huge number on the Spanish railway in entertaining place (8)
- 10 Badger is most difficult beast (6)
- 12 A great deal would be needed to overcome this (5,10)
- 13 Coral could be Regent's Park's unusually hard type (8)
- 14 It's applied to bow to get string initially in control (5)
- 16 Creature is shy, rejecting success (5)
- 18 Cold accident can be tough (4,4)
- 20 House heretic who lays the law down (15)
- 23 Spool to throw to waste receptacle (6)
- 24 Meaning to reject quotes about island (8)
- 25 A course in identifying some rotten tree-trunks (6)
- 26 Maybe following the boat like a seabird (6)

DOWN

- 1 Truly does fancy jumping about (9)
- 2 Newsman out of bed for a bit of physical activity (5-2)
- 3 Perhaps cursory thing which children learn (7,5)
- 5 Source of power about player (7)
- 6 Become aware of renal failure (5)
- 7 Reported nurse's name for water container (7)
- 8 Shut up in this way (4)
- 11 Ship's carrying poor Pointer as these reproduce his work from computer? (4,8)
- 15 Stairs can trouble church worker (9)
- 16 Do better over island, having potential (7)
- 17 Find good employment for flexible suite accommodating 51 (7)
- 19 Loss of king - buried in meadow a long time (7)
- 21 Find argument against potato coming up (5)
- 22 New diamonds will make one very amenable (4)

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People smuggling is Eastern Europe's new growth industry. By Adam Le Bor



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Terror tactics

Sir: I am appalled at the inflammatory remarks of George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, threatening the use of force, were British embassies to be attacked by terrorists (report, 24 August). Is not this the type of comment likely to provoke attacks?

It was bad enough that Tony Blair wholeheartedly voiced his approval of the Sudan and Afghanistan missile strikes, against countries we are not at war with. Has neither the US nor the British government learnt from experiences in Libya, Iraq and Serbia that missile strikes have limited effect against "rogue" regimes, let alone shadowy terrorist groupings?

Apart from US investment in Britain, the US has always been cautious about overtly backing Britain, as in the Suez crisis and the Falklands war. It is about time Tony Blair started to learn to act independently and with caution and prudence, and not jump every time the US says so.

While terrorism has to be acted against, is it not better for the government to act discreetly, without making bold pronouncements?

A BLADGEN
London SE20

Sir: The US strikes on Sudan and Afghanistan will entail three especially disturbing consequences.

First, by announcing its bombing of a "poison gas" factory in a Khartoum suburb, the United States is clearly prepared to risk vast "collateral" casualties from released gases which might drift over the crowded city.

Second, the mere fact of an American response will enormously enhance the prestige of the Bin Laden faction in the eyes of the radicals and zealots everywhere. President Clinton will prove to be Bin Laden's most valuable recruiting sergeant.

Third, an increasing number of Arabs will conclude that the West cannot perceive them as human beings. To kill half a million Iraqi children through sanctions on the absurd claim that this will exercise pressure on Saddam Hussein, and then to object with an air of hurt innocence when armed gangs retaliate on an infinitely smaller scale, is to deny the principle of human equality.

Like violence in Ulster, Middle Eastern radicalism must be dealt with at a level of causes, not of symptoms. And those causes include the sanctions on Iraq and the indifference towards the continued expansion of Israeli settlement on the West Bank. Unless these two injustices are resolved, the dangerous process of alienation will continue.

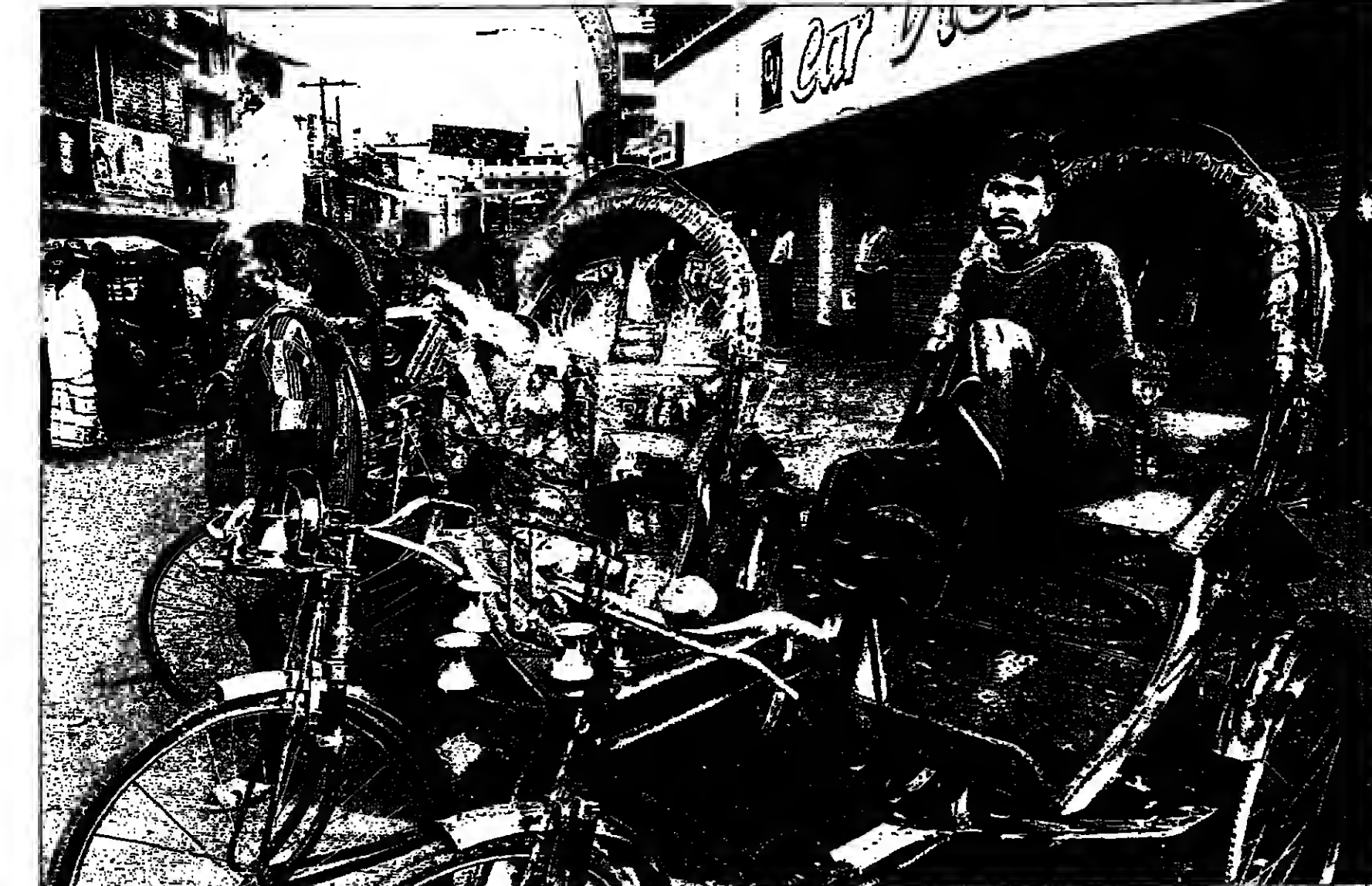
ABDEL-MALIK TADROS
London E5

Sir: According to President Clinton, Afghanistan was harbouring terrorists hostile to US interests and Sudan was covertly permitting the manufacture of chemical weapons for possible use against the US.

As yet the evidence for these allegations has not been produced and we note that the Sudanese government strenuously denies them and has invited the UN to investigate the claims. Meanwhile a country already faced with desperate problems of famine, disease and civil war has seen its major source of pharmaceuticals destroyed by cruise missiles. We urge the British government to support Sudan's call for an independent UN assessment of the US allegations.

We are particularly shamed by the position taken by our own government. To its credit it has approached the problem of terrorism in Northern Ireland by addressing the grievances and aspirations of both communities. Successive British governments have also insisted that in their dealings with terrorists they do not imitate their methods but uphold the rule of law.

Why, then, have these principles



Continuing our series of photographs of the rickshaws of Dhaka in Bangladesh, riders wait on a street corner for customers. Some have regulars, others take fares from the street. The average journey is about a mile and a half, followed by five minutes of intense bargaining. *Rajesh Lathiga*

been ignored by the British government in its support for the US policy? America's precipitate actions undermine the UN and the international rule of law.

JOHN HIPKIN
and six others
Cambridge

Sir: If the Americans are looking for the epicentre of world terrorism, it is surprising that they located it so far from home. When one recalls Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Vietnam, Panama, Colonel North and the Nicaraguan Contras, it must be obvious that the world's greatest terrorists are to be found in the Pentagon, under the command of the US President.

HOWARD CHENEY
Shipston on Stour,
Warwickshire

Exam results

Sir: As a male undergraduate reading English at Oxford, I should be perfectly suited to the existing examination system, according to Timothy Morris (letter, 22 August). Why, then, does his response to Bidisha's timely article "Dreaming spires come tumbling down" merely confirm the need for change?

Mr Morris's suggestion that "paraphrased arguments from books on *Beowulf*" constitute the sole challenge of "examination by dissertation" is insulting to both students and tutors, most of whom thankfully can tell plagiarism from original thought. But worse than that, it reveals a cynical contempt for Oxbridge education as merely a farm for producing unimaginative cheats – a view which betrays the lack of imagination at the heart of his own argument, and at the heart of the problem.

What Mr Morris and the Oxbridge examiners fail to grasp is that the issue is not one of easiness or difficulty, or of male or female, but one of accuracy. In denying any student a grade which accurately reflects the achievement of three years rather than three hours, it is

the Oxbridge examination system which is failing, not the student.

TIM ROSS
Dartington, Devon

Sir: Ruth Lea of the Institute of Directors says (report, 20 August) that employers "see people coming to them with a fistful of A-levels and even a degree who do not have the basic skills that would make them employable".

If commercial companies really believe that educational standards are falling they must anticipate reduced competence among their clients. Are they planning for a dumber clientele, and are their strategies for mentally defective customer bases being unveiled at shareholders' meetings?

Again, if opposition parties really believe that the quality of public intelligence is dropping, as evidenced by "grade inflated" exam results, how do they plan to win the next general election with an electorate significantly more stupid than it was in 1997?

Moreover, if parts of the press and other media sincerely believe that their potential readers,

listeners and viewers are getting dumber, can they assure us that their output in five years' time will be sufficiently inferior intellectually to what it is now, to communicate with minds able only to accept garbage?

Finally, if universities are really finding their first-year students more deficient than previously in basic skills and necessary knowledge, will they either refuse to admit them or return them whence they came? If educational standards in this country really matter, surely the exemplary sacrifice by universities of a year's funding is a price worth paying?

RICHARD WILKINS
General Secretary
Association of Christian Teachers
St Albans, Hertfordshire

How UN chief died

Sir: Rupert Cornwell stood history on its head when, in an otherwise informative piece on the death of the UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld (20 August) he wrote: "Other theories pointed the finger at British and

US interests out to prevent UN support for an independent Katanga."

There is overwhelming evidence that the US and Britain supported Katanga's secession. The objective for which the UN was invited into the Congo was to restore law and order and expel foreign troops in Katanga (including 250 Belgian "military advisers" and over 300 other white mercenaries). The UN was, in effect, in the Congo to end the secession of Katanga.

But this secession had been made possible by the financial support provided to the Katangese leader, Moïse Tshombe, by a Belgian mining company closely linked to British and American financial interests. Tshombe was prodigiously promoted as a Western "good boy", in opposition to the "Communist stooges" who had succeeded the Congo's first prime minister, Patrice Lumumba, in Leopoldville, under Antoine Gizenga.

So Western Cold Warriors put very strong pressure on Hammarskjöld to undermine UN

efforts against Tshombe's forces in Katanga. Hammarskjöld agreed to fly to Ndola, in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) to see Tshombe. On his way there, his aircraft crashed and he was killed.

In the light of the perception in the highest Western circles that the UN was carrying out its mandate in the Congo to the detriment of Western capitalist interests, many Africans believed at the time of Hammarskjöld's death that it would not have taken much for Western governments to at least close their eyes to any plans made towards dispatching Hammarskjöld, by the same shadowy intelligence agencies that had murdered Lumumba.

It is to be hoped that President Nelson Mandela's government will leave no stone unturned to unravel the mystery surrounding Hammarskjöld's death. For it was a signal event in the history of modern great power politics.

CAMERON DUODU
London SE15

Price of cars

Sir: So the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders is planning to tell us of the lifestyle freedom that the car provides ("Car firms plot PR onslaught on Labour", 20 August). The car is wonderfully convenient and liberating. But at whose inconvenience and imprisonment?

Perhaps the SMMT will explain to us the "lifestyle freedom" benefits to the nation of the over 4,000 deaths and over 100,000 seriously injured each year? And explain the liberation of our towns, villages and communities where 90 per cent of children are not allowed to walk to school because of the dangers of traffic, and the elderly dare not attempt to cross the street. If the car disappeared overnight we would all miss it, but what a sense of freedom and relief it would bring.

CHARLES HARVEY
Petersfield,
Hampshire

Blair 'shock-troops'

Sir: I am both baffled and shocked by the launch of Second Term, a right-wing group of New Labour modernisers that even pretends to be Tony Blair's own shock-troops ("End union link, says Labour group", 24 August).

Their policy wish-list includes legalising drugs, abolishing the monarchy, scrapping all ties with the trade unions and introducing PR. Second Term asks the Labour government not to lose its nerve with the pressures of life in government. It also argues that Labour should listen to the silent majority of the party.

Second Term should spend less time lecturing and more time listening to the hard-working, decent majority that elected New Labour. The sooner this arrogant elite of middle class Johnny-come-latelys stop playing campus politics the better.

I am sure the Government has better things to do than pay attention to right-wing Trots who think that tinkering with the constitution in dope-filled rooms is more important than investing in education or rebuilding the NHS.

MICHAEL DUGHER
Conisbrough, South Yorkshire

Sir: With "shock-troops" like Second Term does Tony Blair need enemies? The views put forward by Nick Prior and his friends are resonant of another group of young turks from the 1980s – the Federation of Conservative Students. Advocating drug decriminalisation and an end to the monarchy finally prompted that well-known moderate Norman Tabbitt to close down the FCS. Will the Labour Party be dealing similarly with Mr Prior and friends?

TOM WATSON
Kidderminster, Worcestershire

BBC glitch-hunt

Sir: Roberts Hanks doesn't tell the half of it ("Normal service may not be resumed", 24 August). There are many more to be added to his list of technical glitches suffered by the BBC – Radio 4 in particular.

Presenters' or guests' microphones not opened in time, resulting in the first words being lost or faded in; wrong microphone opened, so the voice seems to be coming from the other end of the studio, talk-back speaker breaking into transmission; wrong recorded insert going to air; recorded inserts misplaced and not going to air; edits in recorded inserts not being done; lines from remote studios failing or not being available as required, and so on.

It all sounds like finger trouble, to me, and this usually can be ascribed to inexperienced operators at the controls not concentrating on what they are doing. This could be the result of firing or retiring senior, experienced people (expensive) and replacing them with juniors (cheaper) or even freelance staff (cheaper still). BBC management should be aware that listeners notice these things.

JAMES NATION
Winchester

A bull by the horns

Sir: There is something obscene about your photograph of a matador derisively hitting the horn of a near-dead bull which is too weak to retaliate. ("In the corridors of power", 22 August).

The bravado of matadors, who pit themselves against animals which have already been weakened by darts driven into their shoulder muscles by mounted picadors, has little in common with the spontaneous, selfless bravery of really courageous men in the face of unexpected danger.

Much is written about the mysticism and complexities of bullfighting, but pictures like this, showing a matador's contempt for the disadvantaged and vanquished animal, expose it as nothing but a bloody and inhumane money-making spectacle.

Mrs JOAN HAGGARD
Harpenden, Hertfordshire

Furry little fellers with sharp teeth and long memories

"THEY'RE VICIOUS, they're cunning, they're randy and, interestingly, they have their own sophisticated honour system based on the Shing Fu Commandments of Samurai warriors," a Ministry of the Environment spokesman revealed yesterday when I rang for an update on events that have had families in the New Forest barricading themselves in. "But frankly the last thing we want is for people going around seeing the mink as Beelzebub in a small fur coat."

"But they've already mugged a fisherman."

"Yes, they learn very quickly. One of them wandered up to him, chatted casually about whether Le Tiss should come off the bench down at the Dell and then – bang! The other mink jumped out of the bushes, grabbed his fish and had

it away on their toes. But, barring unfortunate circumstances, that sort of thing should be an isolated incident."

"What sort of unfortunate circumstances would those be?"

"Without wanting to alarm people, mink breed very quickly. Within 12 hours of their breakout, they had negotiated a highly favourable surrogate motherhood arrangement with weasels and stoats. A problem might occur when 6,000 mink become 60,000. At that point, they're likely to unite, and once mink unite we're into a whole different ball-game."

"Could you be more specific?"

"We've had reports that, using their highly developed sense of smell, mink have cornered the market in illegal Viagra. Ram-raiding, too. There has been a nasty in-

cident near Fordingbridge when a motorist stopped for what he thought was a load of fur-coats that had fallen off a lorry. He was mugged, left badly nipped by the side of the road while the mink took his car on a *Thelma and Louise*-type spec, terrorising fishmongers along the south coast. Gangs can become regiments, regiments become armies. There are no known records of mink actually invading small countries, but we can't rule it out at this point."

"But people shouldn't be alarmed."

"Absolutely not. Just take basic, commonsense precautions. Avoid going out after dark if you live in the New Forest area. If you know any of the goaty sentimentalists who released the animals in the first place, for heaven's sake report



TERENCE BLACKER

"There are no known records of mink actually invading small countries, but we can't rule it out"

them to the police – for complex psychological reasons, the mink are angry with them and may actual-

ly have taken a contract out on them. Oh, and, ladies, for goodness sake, don't go out in a mink coat. These animals astonishingly highly-sexed. They will ignore the proprieties when they spot what they regard as a potential mate."

"Do ministry experts have any idea why the natural world seems to have become so hostile?"

"We believe that it's not the animals that are the problem, but us. Such has been the obsession with drizzly sentimental pet hospital programmes on TV that the essential divide between mankind and wildlife has been eroded. Idiots are prepared to wipe out the water vole and rare bird species so that a few deceptively cute mink can enjoy their freedom. Or to take another example, townspeople treat foxes like pets."

"What's wrong with that?"

"Nothing – if you don't mind seeing kittens being swallowed whole! Thanks to dewy-eyed suburbanites, foxes have become addicted to the taste of young cat flesh."

"Come to think of it, there was story about that in this week's *New Statesman*. Their domestic columnist, Sean French returned from holiday to find the family's favourite fox plump and happy, curled up asleep on the lawn. Unfortunately their two seven-month old cats had gone missing."

"Exactly. He thought it was a coincidence, poor sap."

"So what other animals are in danger of turning in this way?"

"We're very, very worried about snakes. As you know, the blonde bombshell Anthea Turner recently relaunched her career by lolling

about, scantily concealed by a boa constrictor. Already reptile specialists across the country have reported a run on the larger snakes by women disappointed by the new generation of men who want to sit in the kitchen discussing the parameters of vulnerability over camomile tea."

"So they go for a bit of heavy petting with a snake."

"It's no laughing matter. A snake-lover in Hayes was so pleased with new arrangement that she gave the Viagra she had bought for her boyfriend to the boa constrictor."

"No prizes for guessing where she scored for the Viagra."

"Too right. They think of everything, these mink."

Miles Kingston is on holiday

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The law can be slow and tortuous, but it is the only way

COMPROMISE CAN achieve just as much as confrontation. Thus Britain's agreement, 10 years on, that the Lockerbie trial can take place outside the UK is to be welcomed.

Many people in this country may regard as absurd the suggestion that the two Libyans who stand accused of blowing up PanAm Flight 103 in December 1988 would not get a fair trial in Scotland. When the Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi, argued that his government would surrender the two men up only if the trial took place in a neutral country, it may have been a mere rhetorical dodge.

If it was a rhetorical dodge, however, that was all the more reason to call Col Gaddafi's bluff. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, argues that the Conservative government was remiss not to have pursued all possible avenues. He is right - and most of the victims' relatives agree. There was some talk yesterday of "desecration". More typical, however, was Jim Swire, spokesman for the relatives in the UK, whose daughter was among the 259 who died in the disaster. He has long pressed for the trial to be able to go ahead - abroad, if need be - and yesterday described the mood as "euphoric".

In allowing the trial to go ahead on these terms, Britain and the United States - which have been holding discussions since last year on whether and how to find a compromise - are giving almost nothing up. The legitimacy of the trial has not been affected. You could hardly ask for a legally more scrupulous country than the Netherlands. To all intents and purposes, this will remain a Scottish case - heard under Scottish law, and judged by Scottish judges. The Libyan argument that any Scottish jury would be biased against the defendants has been neatly sidestepped: Britain argues that, purely because of the cost and logistical implications, a Scottish jury cannot be expected to stay in the Netherlands for the entire duration of the case. Hence, there is to be no jury.

So far, then, so good. Sudan has scuppered all those calculations. None the less, there could hardly be a worse moment for presenting such an arm-twisting compromise. If this new development had been announced a week ago, then there would have been at least a reasonable chance that other countries in the region might help to put pressure on Col Gaddafi to accept the deal. He would have been forced into a corner. But the bombing of Osama bin Laden's lair in



Afghanistan and of the factory in Sudan definitively scuppered all those calculations.

It will now be far easier for the Libyan leader to defy the West and get away with it almost unscathed. Political solidarity by Muslim countries with Britain and the United States has, in recent days, become far more difficult; by the same token, solidarity with the monstrous Libyan regime has become much easier.

All of which is a reminder of what should have been clear even before the American action last Thursday evening: that the use of due legal process - even if it takes a tortuous 10 years to get to trial - is far more likely to bring genuine, long-lasting results than the

apparent American penchant for due illegal process. There appears to be no clear evidence backing up the American assertion that the bombed Sudanese pharmaceuticals factory was producing nerve gas. George Robertson, the Defense Secretary, has talked of "independent evidence", but has failed to produce any. Even critics of the Sudanese regime have lined up behind the Khartoum government on this occasion.

It is not just a matter of ethics. Simple politics suggest that the law of the hully is ineffective, when applied to international politics. An inflexible stance can appear to be morally absolute. In reality, it is not just morally flawed. It can be counter-productive.

End the secrecy and open the files

IN RECENT days, the Public Records Office has been offering up some of its more newsworthy secrets. Officially, under the "30-year rule", all government records older than 30 years should be made public; in practice, records have often been kept far beyond that date. These have included Britain's Cold War preparations for a Soviet occupation of the Shetlands, the existence of a suspected Japanese spy ring in Britain during the Second World War, and Secret Service plans to kill Hitler. All have now been declassified under accelerated release programmes.

But much more is being kept hidden. Why, for example, are we not permitted to read about the accident at Windscale in 1957? Even 80-year-old files, on subjects such as the Irish Troubles, remain secret.

The wide exceptions to the 30-year rule sanctioned by the authorities amount to blanket censorship far beyond national security concerns. Things do not have to be like this; the US Administration, with a 20-year rule, has released papers on to the Internet relating to scandals such as the FBI's investigation into the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy.

Our system is a mess. The impetus for reform given by the Cabinet Office under William Waldegrave and David Clark is being lost. At a time when the government's commitment to Freedom of Information hangs in the balance, secrecy about ancient controversies is a worrying sign.

Legislating for a 10-year rule is the least the public can expect, since these records really belong to them. At the same time, the Royal Archives at Windsor, a vital historical resource, should be placed under public control. It is ludicrous that papers relating to the illness of George III should remain locked up. Open government is one of Labour's most important pledges; if they cannot pass this test, future historians may judge them harshly.

Pregnant and proud

TWO OF the Spice Girls are keeping mum over rumours that they are pregnant. They shouldn't. If you are pregnant, girls, throw off the discretion. Don't colude in reinforcing the antiquated idea that once pregnant, women become invisible. Follow the trailblazing example of some of your rivals - Melanie Blatt of All Saints, currently wearing little more than a cropped top, and Neneh Cherry, who performed on Top of the Pops when eight months gone. Remember things that go bump should not just be seen in the night.

Do I believe in the cult of Diana? Well, partly yes and partly no

THE RADIO 5 reporter was becoming frustrated. The Welsh woman, with whom she was sharing the shelter of a Hyde Park tree last Sunday morning, was stubbornly failing to deliver the goods.

"What did Diana mean to you?" the reporter had asked. Presumably she had been hoping for a nostalgic eulogy of all Diana, Princess of Wales's furry connections with the world of Welsh women. Pain, suffering, understanding, empathy, beauty, loss, charity - all these and more would have tripped off the lady's lips. After all, she had come a long way to take part in the sponsored Diana walk, due to amble along the route taken by the funeral cortege a year minus a week ago. But no, three increasingly grumpy "what-did-Diana-mean-to-you?"s elicited only the one unsatisfactory word: "charisma".

To add pointlessness to verbal failure, only a few hundred walkers, out of the 15,000 that had been expected, turned up. First they wouldn't talk the talk, then they refused to walk the walk. A fiasco.

So, is this how matters stand in year 1 anno Diana? A pile of Diana memorabilia that no one wants to buy, a groaning shelf of commemorative programmes that no one wants to see, a ship full of articles that no one wants to read? What will we do with the landmine shows, the dead children shows, the "ordinary people on that special day" shows? Does no one care? Was it all a dream?

The Independent's poll, published yesterday, was certainly prayed in aid of this argument. "Britons reject much-heralded 'Diana effect'," said the headline, glossing over our own

relatively muted heralding of the "Diana effect". "Only one in seven thinks that Britain is a better country as a result of Diana's death," said the accompanying article, skating briskly over the ironic possibilities of that particular question. And "only 17 per cent" had said that Diana's death "changed the way that I think about life".

Our own editorial, commenting on the poll results, placed the blame with the media. "Primary responsibility for stoking the emotional overkill," it argued, "must lie with the press and broadcasters." Amen to that. But, also yesterday, our Review section led with an admirable piece all about spirituality in the wake of Diana's death. This put me in mind of Carly Simon's hit, "You're so vain, you probably think this song is about you". As, of course, does this article.

The poll and the non-walk certainly provided welcome ammunition for the anti-Dianas, who now seem to be everywhere. For them Diana Week had been a brief moment of media-inspired hysteria, a spasm, a worrying but ultimately meaningless foray into a park by a load of women with nothing better to do, and by guys looking for a Nineties Judy Garland to worship. The anti-Dianas had sat at home watching all this and muttering "silly buggers", and time had proved them right. Never join anything. Never trust crowds.

Anti-Dianas are in the ascendancy partly because anti-Diana-ism is more interesting and novel - more of a story in fact - than Diana-ism. And partly because some vastly over-inflated claims were made for the significance of the events themselves. The battle between the two positions, Queen of



DAVID AARONOVITCH
The battle of the Queen of Hearts versus the Madame of Media threatens to crush those who believe in neither

Hearts versus the Madame of Media, threatens to crush all those who, like me, subscribe to neither view.

I am largely indifferent to the monarchy, and bored by tales of Wills, Harry and Zara's tongue stud. Camilla and Charles are more intriguing, but - as with many areas of media colonisation (the Spice Girls, David Beckham) - what is of interest or significance is usually extracted in the first five minutes, leaving us with months and months of pith and wind. And I have never read an article about Fergie. The day when Diana died I feared an explosion of sentimental, monarchic rubbish that would cover everything in a metre-thick layer of bullshit.

That didn't happen, and something else did. The bullshit-purveyors were left peddling their wares to no one much, while hundreds of thousands of British people did things that they

hardly knew they had it in them to do. They went to the park and talked about death and love in quiet voices, and their applause for Earl Spencer spread through Hyde Park and in through the doors of Westminster Abbey. The tabloids and the self-appointed encapsulators of school TV weren't in charge; they spent a week sprinting, trying to catch up. Nor was this mass hysteria, or, if it was, it managed to be the least hysterical hysteria that I've ever seen. The only evidence adduced for this "hysteria" was the punching of an Italian flower-nickie by some beefy idiot. And that was it. Well, I've seen more hysteria at a school concert.

To see whether any of this feeling has endured, we should look again at that poll. Forget "only", and focus on the fact that almost one in five people answered "yes" to the question, "did the death of Diana change the way that you personally think about life?" I think that this is a staggering result. It means that every fifth person you meet in the street believes that their life has been altered by the death of someone they had never met, and who exercised no power over them. Are they bonkers?

Or are they reflecting on a moment of crystallisation, a moment when trends in British society became evident to everyone, and which helped to construct a language in which to talk about them? It is a fact that we have been living through a feminisation of society, and that this has raised questions about emotional literacy. It is also true that the death of ideology, and the failure of religion, leave us without overarching or supernatural structures from which to derive moral

strength and direction. Morality hasn't "gone away", as some claim, but it is uncomfortably down to each of us to construct a morality of our own - a way of dealing with being human. There are some of our fellow citizens who become aware of bits and pieces of this while lighting candles or writing cards.

Naturally, some of this is good and some of it is bad. That's dialectics for you, folks. What is positive is the rejection of the tabloid agenda; is the demand for emotional honesty; is the emphasis placed on empathy and tolerance, rather than judgement and condemnation; is the death of deference. What seems to me to be bad is the tendency towards voyeurism, a lack of intellectual rigour, an impatience with complexity.

It is, of course, an unsatisfying response to the question, "did Britain change on the day Diana died?", to reply that we shall not know for some time yet, and that it may just have been an extraordinary stage in a process that was already well under way. Personally I suspect that it has meant the eventual end of the monarchy, but I am far from sure. In the meantime, were I stuck under a dripping tree with a cross Radio 4 reporter, and were she foolish enough to ask me, "What did Diana mean to you?", the answer'd be, not a lot. But her death did tell us some interesting and important things about what kind of people we've become, and what our values are. And the oews was mostly good.

The reporter would not, I suspect, be pleased. That's tough. Life is not arranged for the convenience of reporters.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"In a madhouse like Russia, you can't have normal decisions."
Victor Semenov,
leader of the coal-miners' union,
on Yeltsin's firing of his government

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Fear is the foundation of most governments."
John Adams,
second President of the United States of America

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ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Middle Eastern opinion on the American air strikes



AFGHAN AND Sudanese sites were bombed to defend American dignity after a crime was committed against American interests, even though the culprits have not yet been identified. At the same time, the names of those responsible for the deaths of thousands of Muslims in Kosovo are known, while killings by Israeli terrorists in the occupied lands

occur every day. Yet Israeli terrorism is backed by the United States of America, which turns a deaf ear and a blind eye to calls for help. Al-Hayat, London

THE AMERICAN administration has acted hastily on this matter. If it has proof, it is important to present it to the world. Without proof, it is hard to accept that American military muscle can be used to kill people, and indiscriminately at that. The US cannot simply accuse, and proceed to kill. The Yemen Times

especially when the enraged lady was deciding to reveal further details of her affair. An-Nahar, Beirut

CLINTON TRIED to close down his sex scandal with Monica Lewinsky after the first hearing by targeting Arabs and Muslims - but what if he is summoned for another hearing? May God protect us from the second round of hearings. May you enjoy your vacation. Mr President, and please don't worry about Arabs and Muslims. Ejaculate your missiles far away, and make sure that your shooting doesn't leave a stain on your dignity. As-Safir, Beirut

THE PROBLEMS that Clinton is going through should not be solved at the expense of the sovereignty and safety of powerless Arab and Islamic nations. The real confrontation with terrorism should be in facing up to its political causes, not by sending Tomahawks from miles and miles away. The entire American arsenal will not be sufficient to rehabilitate Clinton's image and protect American interests in the world. Ad-Diyar, Beirut

PANDORA

RESULTS OF the National Executive Committee election have, in the past, been announced on the Monday of the Labour Party conference. Last year that meant that Tuesday's national press was dominated by the "shock" news of Peter Mandelson's failure to be elected and Ken Livingstone's success. Taking no chances of a repeat performance, New Labour's spin-doctors have just announced that the NEC results will not be made public until Wednesday. The ostensible reason for this is that it takes longer to count the results of the telephone polling introduced this year. The fact that Tony Blair's conference speech is set for Tuesday may have had a little something to do with it too. Let's keep those Wednesday headlines "on-message", right, lads?

PANDORA HAS learned that Chris Patten is almost certain to attend the reception given by Euro-friendly group Mainstream at the Tory conference in October. Mainstream is chaired by Michael Heseltine and backed by Kenneth Clarke, who have both vowed to fight William Hague hard on the single currency. If Patten, Heseltine and Clarke forge an alliance at the meeting, we could be witnessing the birth of a formidable Europhile pressure group - one that would be more than a match for the Eurosceptic "barney army" of Theresa Gorman, Teddy Taylor and former MP Tony Marlow.

THE DASHING Anthony Fawcett, whose sponsorship activities have made him one of the key players in London's contemporary art scene, got married recently - long after his Chelsea Arts club reception was in full flow. Unfortunately, just before the original morning ceremony was due to take place, the lovely Honami Niwata, Fawcett's bride, slipped, fell and banged her head in Chelsea Registry Office. Paramedics were called and the bride was advised to rest while the guests, including rock star Stephen Stills,



artist George Condo, Hamish McAlpine and photographer Henry Diltz, were sent off to begin the party. Three hours later, everyone was summoned back to watch a fully recovered bride wed her groom. (But not before Registry Office employees had taken her off in private and assured themselves that the bump on her head had not changed her mind about the marriage.)

HIS MISSILE attacks on Afghanistan and Sudan may have come just in time to rescue Bill Clinton's poll ratings in America - and his wife Hillary's too. A survey undertaken by *Newsweek* (before the bombing) has found that a huge majority of Americans - 84 per cent - believe that Hillary knew about his affair with Monica Lewinsky long before she claims to have been told the "truth" on 15/16 August. Even if they believe she is a liar, the American public have been overwhelmingly sympathetic to the First Lady. After all, who wouldn't lie when put in Hillary's hideously embarrassing position?

UNFORTUNATELY, LONDON Transport has chosen to adopt a stonewall attitude to our Anti-Rucksack On The Tube campaign. "A poster asking passengers to take care with heavy luggage is due to go up in stations and on trains in December," wrote *IT* press officer Neil Byrne last week. "We feel that this addresses the issue you have raised and do not feel that a rucksack specific notice is required." The whole point of rucksacks is that they can easily delude their wearers into not "feeling" the "heavy luggage" strapped to their backs. Hence our campaign's insistence that "rucksack awareness" begins with those who carry them, not with their only-too-aware victims. You would think that *IT* could recognize, at the very least, the need to remind oblivious rucksack wearers of how potentially dangerous and discomfiting they can be in a crowd. (Incidentally, Mr. Byrne, the Campaign has never suggested that you ban rucksacks on the system.) Callously, *IT*'s letter closes by saying that they "must regard this matter as closed". Pandora "feels" the struggle has only just begun.

British fans of soul music have been longing for decades to hear Aretha Franklin (left), the Queen of Soul, in person. Now her agent has revealed why Aretha has never appeared on a European stage. She's terrified of flying. Pandora suggests a clever promoter stump up the money to buy her a round-trip ticket on the QEII. If Aretha sings here, we'll all be richer as a result.

Monica, an icon for modern women



GENEVIEVE FOX

Who else could be photographed by Herb Ritts and still end up looking like a frump?

at all. She is the woman who holds the world, or certainly celebrity-obsessed America, like putty in her chubby hands, and doesn't know what to do with it. Forget 15 minutes of fame, Monica has had seven months of it and some, more than most attention-seeking American girls-next-door could ever dream of. And what does she do with it? Nothing, except spill out of a Land

Cruiser (couldn't she have hired something bit flashier than a tanker of a vehicle designed to transport families of fannies on day trips to McDonald's, for heaven's sake?) on her big day in a spectacular dereliction of dignity, and then get back into it, backwards, looking like a sack of potatoes trying to defy gravity.

What could she do with it? Everything. She could be the new Oprah Winfrey, the Valley girl who went down on the leader of the free world and rose again to share her humiliation with the nation, the defiantly non-dieting agony aunt beloved of scorned mistresses everywhere.

Here could be the mouth that put the bite back into chocolate chip cookie sales and the lustre back into lipstick ads. *Revlon* notwithstanding. She could hit the top of best-seller lists with a self-help manual, "Monica's Magic: Kaiting the New Stressbuster". She could make phone sales sexier than any account director ever dreamed of. One call to the big cheese in charge of mergers at ARST and BT and "It's good to talk" would never seem hackneyed again. Yes, Monica, the contracts are there for your taking.

But this time Monica won't play ball, perhaps because hers has always been a story of all give and no take. The most famous face in America today hasn't even got herself an agent, let alone a personal trainer or image-maker. She misses every chance to milk the situation.

And that's why women love her. Especially British women, for whom body fascism has never really caught on. Puffy-faced and looking like Jackie O after an Elvis Presley burger binge, this woman doesn't do gym. She has fussed the fame game, big time, and won our sympathy as a result.

Like the rest of us, she has let everything slip, including her figure. Those meaty, cartoon calves of hers are vintage Empire, the kind still seen beneath blue pleated hemlines of ungroomed wives marring the chutney stall at a WI fete, the kind that the rest of us keep under wraps.

As for the follicle fantasia that is her unfashionable clowning glory, it makes us nostalgic for the days when our mothers would return from the hairdressers, c1970, looking as if their heads had got stuck

in the overhead dryer. Thank you, Monica, for making us feel this good, for being the woman we turn to on a bad hair day and come away feeling like Jennifer Aniston by comparison.

Her failures are our failures. Who else could be photographed by Herb Ritts on Malibu beach for *Vanity Fair* and still end up looking like a frump squeezed into a *BES* nightie? Or turn up in a beret looking like a character from *Prisoner*, *Cell Block H* who has just discovered lipstick? You and me, is the answer. Monica Lewinsky is the post-post-feminist icon we've all been waiting for. She's the wannabe Madonna figure who's got the spotlight but doesn't know how to reinvent herself. Neither would we.

Moreover, she has suggested that post-feminism may be a lie after all; that what our hairy Seventies sisters told us, and which we have all been latterly urged to reject, was true all along: the gun is the phallus and vice versa and, no, we mustn't let little boys play with guns. It's time to go back to giving them dolls instead. Just make sure they're not inflatable.

The world's worst terrorists are based in Washington



JOHN PILGER

In recent years Muslims have been the greatest sufferers from state terrorism

BY KNOWINGLY killing innocent people, for political ends, President Clinton is a terrorist. By supporting his action, the Prime Minister and the Defence Secretary are accomplices. The dictionary meaning of terrorism allows no other interpretation: the rest is wilful obfuscation, or propaganda. What matters now is our informed reaction.

We have been through this many times before, with the lies echoed predictably from Downing Street. In 1986, there was the "evil" Colonel Gaddafi, whose country President Reagan bombed from bases in Britain, killing mostly women and children, including Gaddafi's 16-month-old daughter.

In 1990, there was the "evil" General Noriega, said to be a dangerous drugs trafficker, whose capture by US Marines required a full-scale invasion of his country and the death by bombing of at least 2,000 Panamanians, mainly the poorest of the poor in their barrios. Noriega and drugs had precious little to do with it. The aim was to put Panama, its canal and its US base under direct American sovereignty, managed by other Noriegas.

In the same year, there was "the truly evil" Saddam Hussein, another one of Bush's and Reagan's old pals, whose regime they had armed and backed (along with Margaret Thatcher, who sent most of her cabinet to Baghdad as supplicants or arms salesmen). Saddam's use of American and British weapons in his attack on the "evil" mulattos in Iran in 1980 was perfectly acceptable. A million people died in that "forgotten" war; and the American and British arms industries never looked back.

Alas, Saddam, the nominal victor, then attacked the wrong country, Kuwait, which is effectively an Anglo-American oil protectorate. He was clearly unreliable: "an up-

perly bastard", as one State Department briefcase described him more in sorrow than anger. Punishing the up-very bastard cost as many as 200,000 Iraqi lives, according to a study by the Medical Educational Trust. These were ordinary Iraqis who died during and immediately after a period of military and economic carnage whose true scale has never been appreciated outside the Middle East.

This old fashioned colonial massacre was called the Gulf war. The dead included thousands of Kurdish and Shi'a people who were Saddam's bitter opponents and whom Bush had called upon to rise up against their oppressor. Long after it was over, *New York Newsday* revealed, from official sources, that three brigades of the US 1st Mechanized Infantry Division - "The Big Red One" - had used snowploughs mounted on tanks to bury alive Iraqi conscripts in more than seventy miles of trenches. A brigade commander said, "For all I know, we could have killed thousands." This is a war crime.

The following year, Bush attacked Somalia in what was called a "humanitarian intervention". He was in the midst of his re-election campaign. Bush said the Marines were doing "God's work... saving thousands of innocents". Like his moralising over the Gulf war, this was generally accepted by the British media, with honourable exceptions.

American television crews were waiting as the Marines landed in a beautiful African pre-dawn: "prime time" at home. From the Somali side there was perpetual darkness: "chaos" and "tribalism" and "warlords". When the American warlords had completed their adventure in Somalia and taken the media home with them, the story died, as we say. According to CIA estimates, the Marines had left between 7,000 and 10,000 Somalis dead. This was not news.

Soon after he was elected in 1992, Clinton attacked Baghdad with 23 Cruise missiles. These destroyed a residential area, killing, once again, mostly women and children, including Iraq's most distinguished artist, Leila al-Attar.

Interviewed on his way to church with his wife, Clinton said, "I feel quite good about this, and I think the American people feel quite good about it." The pretext for the attack was an Iraqi "plot" to kill George Bush on a visit to Kuwait. There was no hard evidence and the plot story is now widely regarded as fake.

Two years ago, Clinton attacked Iraq again, this time insisting that he was "defending" Kurds against Saddam Hussein, who "must pay the price". Once again civilians - television's unpeople, I call them - paid the price.

Earlier this year, Clinton very nearly attacked again. Virtually the same footage of missiles looping sleek against the dawn light, courtesy



Sudanese police look on as demonstrators protest US attacks

of the Pentagon, appeared on British television. What stopped him?

Like spontaneous combustion, public opinion all over the world raised its voice. The cameras had also shown glimpses of Iraq's silent holocaust, the consequences of the imposition of "economic sanctions" by the United States and Britain (under the usual UN flag of convenience) against the Iraqi civilian population, notably its children.

Tony Blair said he wept for the children who were killed in Omagh by a terrorist act; but he is silent on the children who die in Iraq as a result of one of the most enduring terrorist acts of the late 20th century, conducted largely by his government and its principal ally.

According to the Food and Agricultural Organisation and the World Health Organisation, both UN agencies, more than half a million children have died as a direct result of sanctions. Other sources put the figure at over a million. Baby food and enriched powdered milk are blockaded, along with vital hospital

equipment: stethoscopes, X-ray machines, medical swabs, scanners and water purifiers.

As for the news of Clinton's latest attack, the surreal stereotypes are back on parade: the flag burning, embassy storming, bearded, wild men of Islam - "the enemy of the future", says Washington. Forget that not only have Muslims been responsible for a tiny proportion of deaths caused by terrorism, but in recent years it is they who have been the greatest sufferers from state terrorism. The limbs found lying in the rubble in Khartoum and Afghanistan are theirs; the terrible burns shown fleetingly on TV are theirs.

All, of course, are unpeople: the victims of an unerring pattern of ruthless, lawless terrorism, imperialist by nature and infinitely greater than that of any Islamic or Irish group. It is time to stop sniggering at the distractions of this rampant power and to recognise the truth about it and to speak out. © John Pilger 1998

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British culture is dumbing down

IT WOULD seem to be a truism to suggest that British culture is dumbing down, as plenty of examples seem to prove the point. In the print media personal musings and human interest stories take precedence over hard facts and analysis.

Voyeuristic fly-on-the-wall real-life soaps and Diana-style confessional interviews have all but replaced serious documentary-making. Here at the Edinburgh Festival there is a hint of the kind of modernised Shakespeare currently being commissioned for television: *O/J* *Othello*, the African Julius Caesar (third World dictators - you get the picture), *Shakespeare's Mums* (I kid you not). Academic courses in universities are being marginalised in favour of vocational courses and sexy subjects such as film studies.

What all these things have in common is an avowed intention of becoming more relevant and accessible: to newspaper readers, young TV audiences and students. Relevant and accessible they may well be. But I am concerned that this present day pre-

occupation with chasing the "relevant" is the very thing that leads to dumbing-down. Take the example of education, about which, as a former English teacher, I feel passionately. Confining your teaching to what is relevant to the average teenager would make filling in DESS forms a more likely subject on the curriculum than *King Lear*. If forced to teach *Lear*, teachers dominated by the notion of relevance always look for contemporary parallels - leading to essays on homelessness, community care and the need to update the monarchy. My principal objections to this trend are best illustrated in the field of literature.

The attempt to invest authors with a spurious degree of Nineties relevance in fact ignores one of the main reasons for reading literature in the first place: its beneficial effect on the human imagination. A reluctance to broaden the imagination has ramifications not only for the scope of fictional writing, but also for the readers' ability to envisage their capacity to be transformed. The act of reading elicits a degree of imaginative effort that can

only be stultified by the pressure to point out crass contemporary associations. Today however, educators often opt for texts that describe lives similar to those of the reader. There was great excitement in the nation's classrooms at the thought of adding *Trainspotting* to the curriculum; great; the kids would get it.

The notion that what counts is how easily pupils will immediately grasp a text betrays

a patronising assumption: that the audience is incapable of stretching itself beyond its present situation and getting to grips with iambic pentameter or international news. Once this assumption has been made, it rapidly becomes self-fulfilling, as no challenge is posed to people's intellectual horizons. It assumes that the mass of people will never be able to "get it" - and it is so much easier to accommodate down than to wise people up. The obsession with making culture relevant so as to make it accessible ironically gives less access to profound ideas and works of great art, instead selling pulp fiction as an available substitute.

Finally, the justification for many of the dumber aspects in society today is that they are giving the people what they want. In despair journalists note higher viewing figures for *Kilroy* than for *Newsnight*, Oasis selling better than opera. So maybe it's the audience's fault. However, what this attitude really reflects is a profound loss of nerve among educators, cultural curators and the media. What of their responsibility?

As a teacher I knew that initially I was less popular than colleagues who played safe with modern "relevant" fiction while I taught *Henry IV* Part 1. But my job was not to entertain and win Brownie points for my street cred, but to take my pupils into new worlds that required rigour, study research and concentration. By the end of the course, these young people were often bored by yet another rendition of a rites-of-passage novel or a poem about child abuse, and preferred the challenge of a sonnet.

If those in a position of authority continue to refuse to take the initiative and accommodate to the obvious attractions of pandering to the lowest common denominator, we are in trouble. Ask any class of 17-year-olds to choose between Chaucer and *Bridget Jones's Diary*, and they go for the latter. But when teachers look to students for relevance, and students have nothing profound to look to teachers for the tendency is towards mind-numbing stasis. The tyranny of relevance can lead only to a culture of Teletubbies for adults.



PODIUM

CLARE FOX
From a talk by the co-author of 'LM' magazine, given at the Edinburgh Books Festival

150

Don't fear the Russian bear



RUPERT CORNWELL

The structure over which Yeltsin presides ranks as one of the most ineffectual central states on earth

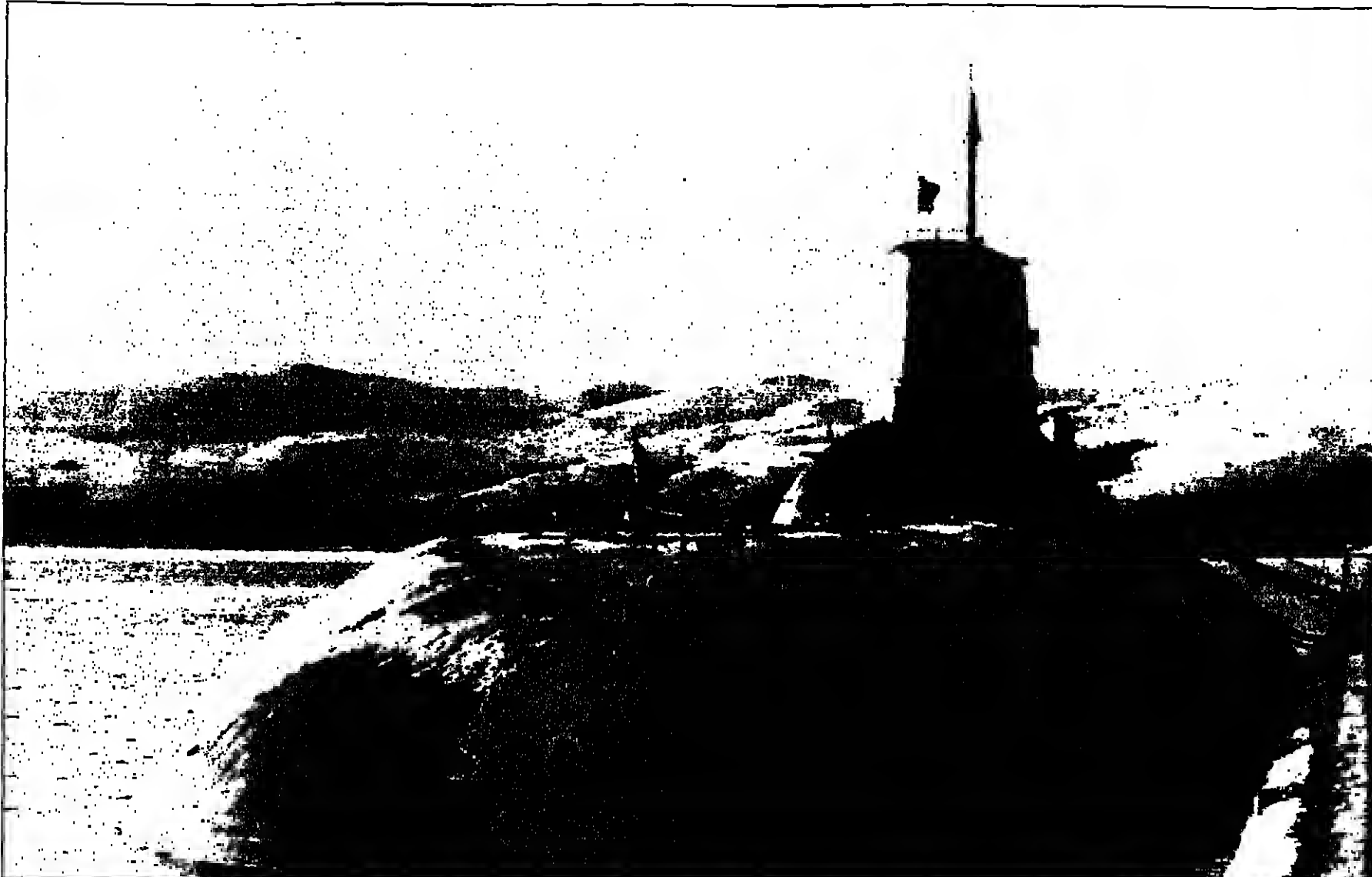
IT WOULD be the irony of all ironies to savour, were it not so terrifying. Could it be that, where fire-breathing Soviet regimes tried and failed for 70 years, the blundering, pitifully weak successor of the Communist state will succeed? For just maybe, Russia will prove to be the straw which snaps the camel's back of capitalism at the very moment when the creed seems to have conquered the planet.

It is, I hasten to add in the interests of readers' nerves, merely a possibility and a fairly remote one at that. In global terms, Russia is little more than an economic bidder, and central banks have learnt much since 1929. Even so, the news from Moscow grows more alarming by the day. A sickly and erratic leader flounders, abruptly sacking in its entirety a government he installed just five months earlier.

The country's currency has been massively devalued; the Russian stock market has imploded; swathes of the domestic banking system face bankruptcy. Foreign creditors are threatened with default on many billions of dollars of debt. If the very worst scenario does unfold, Russia could be the catalyst for a wholesale collapse of emerging markets, from East Asia to Latin America. In that event, a chain reaction of competitive devaluation might set in, toppling Wall Street and sending first the American and then the European economies crashing to earth.

"We will bury you," Nikita Khrushchev used to thunder at his capitalist rivals in the West, and was laughed at for his pains. Just conceivably, the present occupants of the Kremlin might pull off the feat. But this time their weapon is weakness, not strength. On put another way, Russia both does not matter – and yet matters enormously.

On the eve of the new millennium, Russia, in relative terms, is perhaps as weak as it has ever been in all the centuries of its existence as a nation state. Things were bad enough when I left Moscow at the beginning of 1991, when the demise of a superpower was a matter of a few months away. Even then there were queues and shortages in the capital and appalling privations in the



A Russian Navy Typhoon class nuclear submarine – the world's largest submarine, built as a symbol of Soviet might – moored at Murmansk Military Picture Library

provinces. Since then, output has dropped by 40 per cent and investment, the seed corn of future output, has fallen by 75 per cent. In whole sectors of industry, workers go for months without pay. Only the stoical fortitude of ordinary Russians has enabled them to tolerate suffering that, in any other European country, would have brought bloody revolution.

Just as the Soviet Union before it, Russia has an economy which subtracts value and functions largely by barter. The difference now is that its borders have opened. Much of the country's riches and many of the best of its minds have migrated abroad, probably never to return. Putting a figure on Russia's gross domestic product is well nigh impossible. But its importance to the real global economy, other than as a supplier of raw materials, is, in reality, quite minimal. Only for Germany among the major economic powers is Russia an important trading partner.

In political and military terms the picture is just as grim. At least until Mikhail Gorbachev loosened the reins, the Kremlin was synonymous with omnipotence. But the structure over which Boris Yeltsin presides must rank as one of the

most ineffectual central states on earth, whose writ runs barely beyond the Kremlin's redbrick walls. I do not advocate the return of tsars or general secretaries. I merely make the point that today's Russia is both ungoverned and ungovernable.

The rot has long since spread to the armed forces, upon which the Soviet Union's claim to exceptionalism rested. Total personnel strength has shrunk from 5 million to little more than 1 million. The army was humiliated in Chechnia. Russia retains a moderately efficient navy and submarine deterrent, but the air force has crumbled, flying standards are now "below basic safety levels, let alone combat efficiency", wrote the respected International Institute for Strategic Studies last year. Short of its military threat, therefore, cannot Russia simply be ignored? After all, it has returned to its proper place in history's scheme of things – a large European power, currently going through a very bad patch. So why not let the place stew in its own juice? What, after all, can the West do? Money, as the latest squandering of \$5bn of IMF money to defend an indefensible exchange rate proves, is not the answer.

But this argument is not only unfair, it is untenable. It is unfair because to dismiss Russia now is to overlook the extraordinary double revolution under way. Yes, it is in a mess. But that is because it is being asked simultaneously to replace an authoritarian political system and a collectivised command economy with liberal democracy and free markets – of neither of which does it have the slightest serious experience. Both processes, moreover, require nothing less than a change in the national character if they are to be seen through to success. Normally they would take decades, even centuries. Russia is being pilloried because it has failed to complete these two parallel revolutions in just seven years.

Personally, I must confess to a measure of relief at the reappointment of the much-vaunted Viktor Chernomyrdin as prime minister. What Russia needs at this moment is not a coterie of urbane young men, more at home in Harvard than Khabarovsk, inflicting a cure which is alien to the patient's body and gradually killing him. Yes, Chernomyrdin is a plodder, a product of the command Soviet culture of yesterday whose rules govern his thinking. But, in these miserable,

desperate times, he is at least the devil the people know. His return is the sign of a bleak and simple truth. Stripped of its power, its certainties and, above all, its self-respect, Russia is currently a land without a saviour.

But it must be saved, and not just for the economic reasons outlined above, compelling though these may be. For politically, as well, Russia has substantial residual wrecking power. In economic terms, it has something of the power of the debtor who, by dint of borrowing not thousands but millions of pounds, becomes not the servant of his bank but its master. In geo-political terms Moscow has the power of the veto. Maybe it cannot make things happen, but it can still stop them happening.

Russia's nuclear decrepitude may be summed up by the rusting hulks of attack submarines that litter its northern harbours – a repeat of Chernobyl waiting to happen – or the nightmare that some unaided, disgruntled scientist will present to Saddam Hussein a home-made nuclear bomb.

The immediate truth is more prosaic. Measure a country not by what you think it will do, but what it can do, the old diplomatic maxim

runs. The Cold War may be over, but Russia still possesses 10,000 nuclear warheads. Even in its current shambles, it remains the one country on earth capable of wiping America off the map.

Diplomatically too, Russia can still make a nuisance of itself. Its support is essential if global non-proliferation agreements are to work. As events have shown, without Russian support, any solution to the Kosovo problem slips out of reach. Here, moreover, the West has already paid for treating Russia as if it did not exist, pressing ahead with the expansion of Nato, against a non-existent Russian military threat, but forfeiting the co-operation of Moscow over Iraq, nuclear arms control and the Balkans. In politics as in economics, Russia is not to be ignored.

In a few days President Clinton will be in Moscow, where he will again urge President Yeltsin and his new government to "stay the course". Never has an American leader entered such a meeting in so dominant a position. Never has the temptation to write Russia off been so great. But, as economic events may show even before he arrives, Russia's very weakness contains a Domsday scenario of its own.

RIGHT OF REPLY

L RON HUBBARD



The Church of Scientology, in the name of its founder, responds to Paul Valley's recent article

WHEN PAUL Valley visited our Church last week, we did not envy him his task of condensing the half-a-million pages of Scientology scriptures into a 1,200 word article, with no real study of the subject and no personal experience. Having read the resulting piece ("Signing up for Scientology", 15 August), that view remains.

Paul Valley didn't come any closer to discovering why someone like Geri Halliwell might be interested in the Scientology religion, which was, after all, the stated aim of his visit to us. While it is easy to "skim" through a 600-page book and dismiss its contents, as Paul did, it takes a great deal more time and an actual personal interest to properly study the subject, apply it to one's life and see if it works the way it is said to.

As to those who have criticised Church of Scientology – what religion hasn't been criticised and persecuted? Witness Christianity.

Why were the Scientologists Paul interviewed able to give numerous instances of improving their own and others' lives with Scientology. In Scientology you think for yourself. You study the subject and apply it to your life, you receive spiritual counselling, and you see if it works for you.

While a great deal of Scientology is indeed "common sense", the subject as a whole is a practical religion, a summation of "workable truths" on which you can only really pass judgement when you have put them into practice and seen the results for yourself.

Fundamentally, Scientology is about the individual man or woman. Its goal is to bring an individual to a sufficient understanding of himself and his life and free him to make improvements where he finds them necessary and in the ways he sees fit.

Too much Greece in the recipe

"WHAT IS a Classic?" asked T S Eliot, not in jest, and gave a rather staid answer. Snappier by far was Italo Calvino's article "Why Read the Classics?", available in his brilliant collection *The Literature Machine*. Eliot and Calvino were talking about classical texts, but their questions apply equally to whole cultures. Yet there is no entry for "Classical" in Arthur Cotterell's dictionary, nor any relevant discussion in the preface. He seems simply to assume that ancient Greece, Rome, Persia, India and China were in some uncomplicated way "Classical" civilisations. There is no discussion of canon, heritage, reception, the whole cultural paraphernalia underpinning the judgement that these civilisations, and not others, are "classical".

The breezy reference to "the clas-



TUESDAY BOOK

THE PIMLICO DICTIONARY OF CLASSICAL CIVILIZATIONS
BY ARTHUR COTTERELL, PIMLICO, £12.50

sical age" merely compounds the felony. Ages are not born, but made by historians. They do not exist as a kind of Platonic Form, somehow "out there" and needing only to be recognised. They are constantly subject to retrospective revision and, if need be, replacement. Karl Jaspers' idea of an "axial age", linking the Buddha, Zoroaster, Confucius, Solon and Numa, was one such attempt.

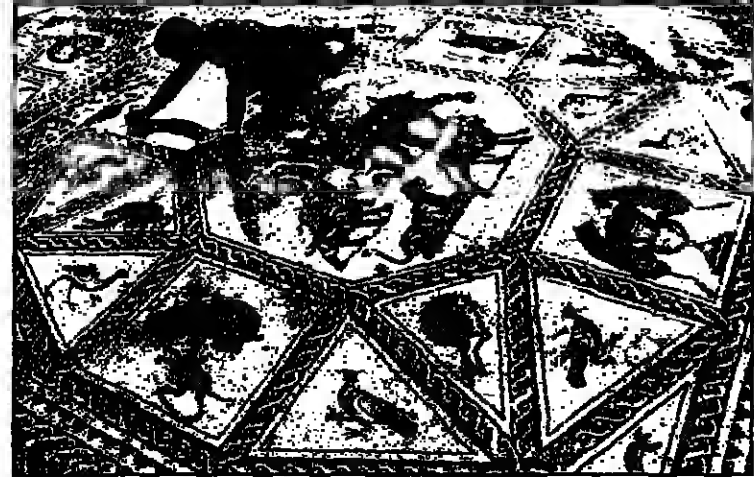
Here is an opportunity missed, an

especially culpable failing in a volume positioned for the "intelligent general reader". Greece and Rome, we are told, have for too long been allowed to hog the "Classical" tag. Persia, India and China deserve their place in the sunlight alongside them.

Fair enough. But, if that is not to be a mere gesture towards multicultural inclusivity, why not include the civilisation of the Jews, creators of "classical" Hebrew and one of the classical texts, who are granted merely a single two-page entry? And why have so much, still, on the Greeks and the Romans?

One answer is that Cotterell's categories are predominantly political rather than cultural, with lingering outmoded bias towards military descriptions ("Ionian Revolt", "Persian Invasions", for example). Another, less flattering, is that this dictionary is by no means his first foray into this terrain. It is claimed on the cover that this is an "original and unique work of reference which breaks new ground by treating for the first time the classical era of the Old World as a whole". It is nothing of the kind.

Consider only two of Cotterell's own previous volumes, *The Penguin Encyclopedia of Ancient Civilisations* (which in 1980 already included the five selected Old World "Classical" civilisations, and much more) and *The Penguin Encyclopedia of Classical Civilisations* (the civilisations are – you've guessed them). Not only have these two already done that allegedly groundbreaking job, they have done it much better, visually as well as ver-



An Israeli archaeologist restores a fourth-century Roman mosaic

bally. In *Ancient Civilisations*, for example, there is an entry (by Colin Renfrew) addressing the primary issue of what "a civilisation" is, and how it may emerge and change.

The initial suspicion that this "new" dictionary is a case of mere book-making hangs heavy. It is not dispelled by the performance. We are promised up-to-date references for further reading; often, they are well out-of-date – the prize perhaps going to a 1926 volume, the only work cited for "Tirace". Choice of what and whom to include or exclude will have been taxing, but the decisions are not always transparently self-justifying. Vietnam is in, but not Korea, the Ptolemies, but not Claudius Ptolemy, Herodotus and Thucydides, but not Polybius.

"Population" is an unmissable topic, but its treatment here is not. "Sacrifice" and "Slavery", on the other hand, are adequately done. On the whole, those "intelligent general readers" would be far better advised to consult last year's *Routledge Companion to Historiography* and the 1996 edition of *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*,

both multiculturally inclusive and, more to the point, properly comparative and interdisciplinary.

Look to the end, as Herodotus and Sophocles sagely advised. Here at last Cotterell's format comes vaguely into its own. No "Zeno" (see Stoicism) or "Zeus" (see Olympia), true, but China is well-represented by the Qin General Zhang Han, the inventor Zhang Heng, the envoy Zhang Qian, the court eunuch Zhao Gao, the Zhou dynasty, and Zhuang Zi, founder of Daoism; bringing up the rear comes Persian Zoroastrianism. Nor is the back matter to be overlooked entirely: chronological tables from 600 BCE (or BC, as Cotterell oddly prefers) to CE (AD) 600, 19 maps and – last but not least – an index of names and subjects which are not titles of entries. From Academy (Plato's) to Zoroaster. But, all the same, let there be no more such dictionaries.

The reviewer teaches classics at Cambridge University; his most recent book is *Democritus* (Orion Great Philosophers, £2).
PAUL CARTLEDGE

TUESDAY POEM

SETBACK
BY SUSAN WICKS

A setback, darling. Death
will be like this: bare trees
through glass, a streaky sunrise
like any other, the fat earth
whitish. Words leave, leak
from me like urine, my palate
spongy to the tongue as I wait
for a buzz of nurses. I'm snoring awake.

Just – somewhere – something – this bird,
that twig. Nothing to get upset about. My mother's
soft voice or my daughter's, half heard
as the world floods back. Feathers
flick at the window, flame-coloured, and the branch
bounces on air; the bird gone. A finch.

This poem comes from the summer number of "Poetry Review", which costs £5.95 for one issue or £23 for an annual subscription from 22 Betterton Street, London WC2H 9BU

THE INDEPENDENT PHOTOGRAPH



Indian Tiger by Philip Meech
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Admiral Otto Kretschmer

OTTO KRETSCHEMER, of the German Reichsmarine, was the most successful submarine commander of any navy during the Second World War. In the first 16 months of the war he sank 44 ships totalling over 266,000 tons. His reward was celebrity status in Nazi Germany and he was awarded the coveted Ritterkreuz, the Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords.

His U-boat was decorated with a horseshoe symbol on the conning tower and he was very lucky indeed. In one month in 1941 three top submarine commanders were put out of action by the British. On 17 March 1941, in the North Atlantic, Kretschmer's vessel was caught by HMS Walker and badly damaged. Kretschmer was able to scuttle his submarine and lead most of the crew into captivity. Two other submarine "aces" were not so lucky. Joachim Schepke lost his life on the U-109. Günther Prien, who had sunk the battleship HMS Royal Oak at Scapa Flow on 14 October 1939 with a loss of 883 British lives, went to the bottom in the U-47.

Born in 1912, the son of a school teacher, Kretschmer sought a career in the small navy of the Weimar Republic in 1930. Although the navy was expanding slowly, and was involved in secret deals with the Soviet fleet, promotion was expected to be slow. In January 1932, with the rank of petty officer, Kretschmer was sent to serve in the pocket battleship Deutschland and the cruiser Emden. As an officer he joined the submarine service in 1934.

The 1935 naval agreement with Britain gave Hitler's Reichsmarine the prospect of more rapid expansion and the submarine service was given due attention. Kretschmer spent the remainder of the pre-war years serving with the German naval patrol protecting

Franco's interests during the Spanish Civil War.

After sinking many merchant ships Kretschmer sank HMS Daring, a destroyer, off Norway on 18 February 1940. Thus he joined the select band of officers who had sunk an enemy warship. His war looked like being a good one.

Kretschmer was a tall, polite man of gentle formality. He was known as a disciplinarian who punished his men for being drunk on leave. He was highly skilled and courageous and suffered with his men the cold, cramped conditions

In another incident, a German officer in the camp was ostracised for allegedly surrendering his submarine to the British. He argued that he had done so in order to save the lives of his men. He was threatened with a so-called "honour court" headed by Kretschmer and had to be relocated by the camp authorities. Kretschmer was returned to Germany in 1947. He was one of the handful of U-boat commanders to have survived.

Kretschmer answered the call for volunteers in 1955 when the Bundesmarine (Federal Navy) was es-

ablished. It was more like the navy he joined in 1930 than the navy he saw disbanded in 1945. The new force was seen largely as coastal defence. By 1965 it remained smaller than the Swedish navy, being made up largely of destroyers borrowed from the US and smaller vessels. The submarine arm consisted of only five craft as against 26 Swedish submarines.

The Bundesmarine was different in other ways too. It could not get the recruits it wanted. In 1934, the German navy had been able to reject 9 out of 10 officer applicants; in 1964 the Federal Navy accepted 60 per cent. Kretschmer and the other veterans had also to come to terms with the concept of servicemen as citi-

zens in uniform. Many found this difficult. Flottenadmiral (Admiral) Heinrich Gerlach, head of training, got into difficulties over his opinion that despite mistakes "much was excellent" in the Third Reich. On the other hand, Admiral Helmut Heye, responsible for ensuring servicemen were not abused, caused equal controversy when he attacked dangerous tendencies in the armed forces in 1965.

In that year Kretschmer was promoted to Flottenadmiral and he also served as Chief of Staff, Allied Naval Forces, Nato Baltic Approaches. One of his last duties was to conduct an inquiry into the loss of the 232-ton submarine Hoi with loss of 19 lives in September 1964. It had been heading for Scotland on a goodwill mission. Hoi, a wartime U-boat, had been scuttled in 1945, salvaged and recommissioned 11 years later. Kretschmer found considerable technical faults and deficiencies in the training and command of the crew. The report did not gain him friends at the top levels of the navy.

Kretschmer finally took off his uniform for good in 1970. West Germany had a new government, and the Social Democrat Helmut Schmidt, himself a wartime artillery officer, was the new Defence Minister. He wanted younger men in the highest ranks of the armed forces. In retirement Kretschmer retained his interest in all things naval and was happy to discuss the war with historians, former foes and more recent allies.

DAVID CHILDS

Otto Wilhelm August Kretschmer, naval officer; born Helden, Silesia 1 May 1912; married 1948 Dr Luise Charlotte Mohsen-Hinrichs (née Bruns); died Straubing, Germany 5 August 1998.



Tall, polite, formal, a disciplinarian, Kretschmer was highly skilled and courageous. He was one of the handful of U-boat commanders to survive the Second World War

Elena Garro

THE DEATH of the great Mexican poet Octavio Paz on 19 April this year was for his admirers a particularly bitter passing. While he was still awaiting the final rites, his former wife Elena Garro, a considerable writer and social activist in her own right, demanded her share of the inheritance with the same volubility and acrimony that had disfigured their divorce proceedings more than 30 years earlier. She even went so far as to qualify the poet's second wife, Maria José Triunfo, as a mere "concubina".

Garro was divorced from Paz in 1967 and had lived ever since in what she claimed were straitened circumstances. But it appears that Paz had always supported her and their only daughter financially and had also helped Garro's career as a writer.

Born in 1920, Garro was a student in the literary department of the University of Mexico when she encountered Paz. She was married to him in 1937, the beginning of a marriage of three decades of troubled personal relationships and stormy political activities. She was a choreographer and a journalist, before starting to write highly emotional and successful novels.

She also wrote for the theatre and the screen. Her best-known novel, *Los Recuerdos del Porvenir* ("Memories of the Future"), which in 1963 won the Xavier Villaurrutia Prize, was five years later made into a film by the great Mexican director Arturo Ripstein.

Garro came to be considered one of the leading contemporary Mexican authors. Another of her best works is a tribute to a land that gave her refuge when because of her political activities she was forced to go into exile: *Memoria de España* 1937 (1993).

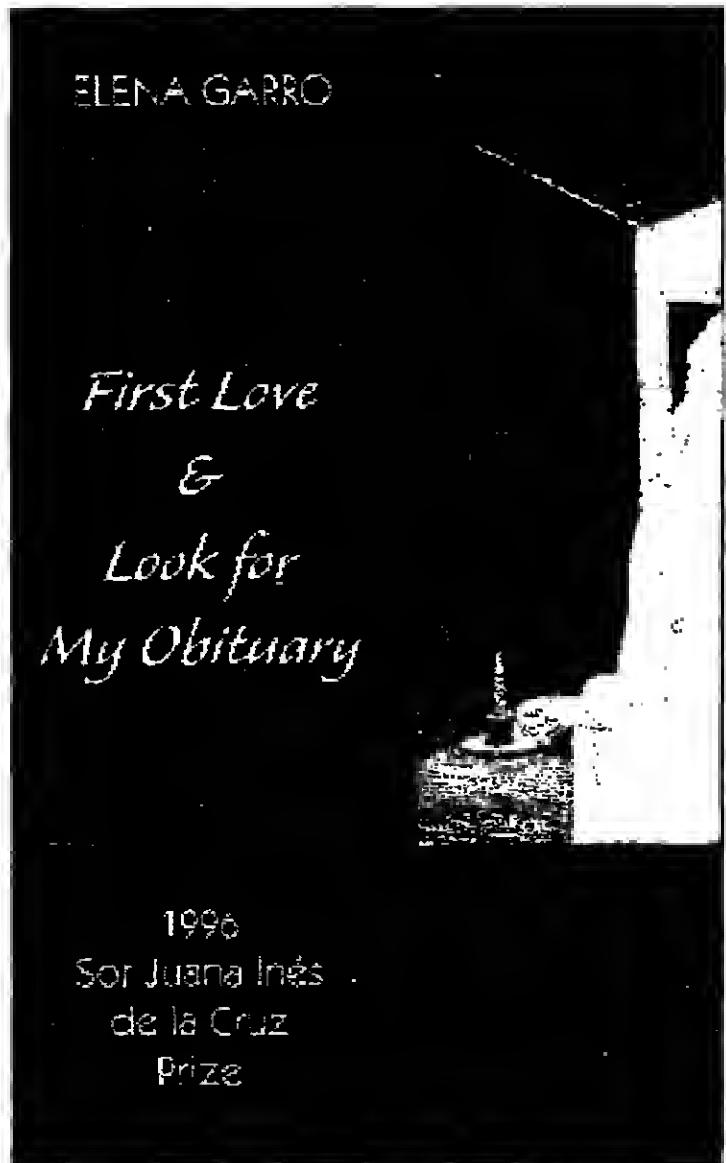
She, like Paz, had always fought for the rights of the downtrodden *campesinos*, bringing them education, health facilities and respect for their way of life. But Garro was accused in 1968 of instigating the tragic student revolt of Tlatelolco, in which hundreds of rebellious students were assassinated by the armed forces. She rejected the accusation and gained the name of *apostada* ("accused") in intellectual political circles.

Her countries of exile were Spain, France, Germany and Japan, where her books were translated and her revolutionary theories greatly admired by the student intelligentsia of the Sixties. She continued to be in touch with Paz, though the portrait she gives of the poet's conduct during the Spanish Civil War in *Memoria de España* 1937 is far from flattering. Other well-known works in which he appears are *Reencuentro de Personajes* ("Personal Encounters", 1982) and *Testimonios sobre Mariana* ("Testimonies on Mariana", which won the Gríjalo Prize, 1981).

The writer and her daughter Helena returned to Mexico in 1994. They lived in a modest apartment in Cuernavaca with 10 cats. Garro was suffering from severe breathing difficulties, but continued to dispute the Paz inheritance, declaring: "My great love for him never died, and never will die. Now he is with God, and we shall all one day be going to meet him again."

JAMES KIRKUP

Elena Garro, writer; born Puebla, Mexico 12 December 1920; married 1937 Octavio Paz (died 1998); one daughter; marriage dissolved 1967; died Cuernavaca, Mexico 22 August 1998.



Cover for Garro's two novellas *First Love* and *Look for My Obituary*, translated by David Unger (Curbstone Press, 1997)

Kazimierz Dziewanowski

FOR MANY years, *Mitteleuropa* seemed to be little more than a lost dream, even for those who lived there. "Central Europe" consisted of little more than a memory of cakes and coffee-houses. It no longer had any political and intellectual significance of its own. Europe was generally divided into west Europe (the good guys) and east Europe (the bad guys). In those countries that found themselves on the eastern side of the barbed wire, some argued fiercely that they belonged at the heart of Europe. But they were generally ignored.

Kazimierz Dziewanowski was among those who stood for a different order. He believed that Poland and its neighbours were part of a natural European family - and should be recognised as such. He was also acknowledged to have played a key part in enabling that recognition to take place.

When Poland becomes a member of Nato next year, that it will be in no small measure because of the work done by Dziewanowski, when he was ambassador to Washington in the first years after the demise of Communism in 1989. As the former president Lech Walesa said, in reacting to news of Dziewanowski's death: "He pushed the door ajar for us into Nato; it is a great pity that he did not live to see the door fully open."

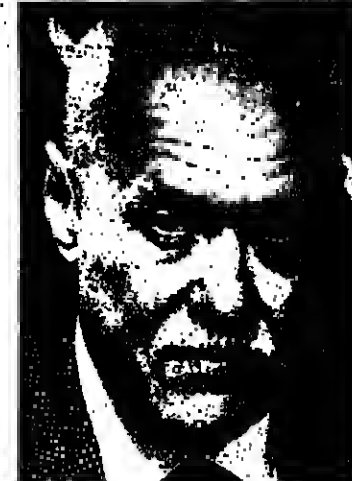
Dziewanowski was a very Polish mixture of thinker, writer and diplomat. He studied law at Warsaw University, and began his journalistic career at the weekly *Swiat* in 1955. He later worked for the main Warsaw daily, *Zycie Warszawy*, and for the weekly *Literatura*. He did not appear to be a dissident in the straightforward sense of confronting the regime at every turn. But he played a constantly questioning

role. In the 1970s, he took part in the discussions of a group called *Experiencia* and the *Future*, which was highly critical of the Polish political situation of the time.

In August 1980, when the free trade union *Solidarity* first came into existence at the Gdansk shipyards - while Leonid Brezhnev was still alive, and five years before Mikhail Gorbachev came to power - Dziewanowski was one of the leading intellectuals who went to Gdansk to offer the dockworkers his support in achieving what had until then seemed to be the unthinkable. This linking of hands between intellectuals and workers, which had been notably lacking in previous conflicts with the authorities, was crucial for the success of the Polish revolution. The Polish revolution, in turn, played a crucial role in paving the way for the end of Communism throughout the region, nine years later.

In 1981, Dziewanowski was a co-founder, together with Tadeusz Mazowiecki - who later became eastern Europe's first non-Communist prime minister for 40 years - of the *Solidarity Weekly*. After the declaration of martial law in 1981, he lost his job at *Literatura* and publishers broke off their contracts with him. But his influence remained strong. He was a member of the citizens' committee that was a kind of prelude to the democratically elected parliament of 1989, and a member of the round table that negotiated with the Communist authorities to bring an end to unchallenged one-party rule.

Between 1990 and 1993, he was the Polish ambassador to Washington, where he created, in Mazowiecki's words, "a respected Poland". On his return from Washington in



1993, he became a columnist with *Rzeczpospolita* newspaper, where "Always on a Saturday" continued to appear right up until his death - and beyond. The last column appeared posthumously on Saturday. Kazimierz Dziewanowski was a prickly fighter for tolerance, to the very end. One of his final columns addressed a favourite theme - Polish identity in Europe. He noted that the battle for entry into Nato has already been won, and the battle for entry into the European Union is "quite advanced". He suggested that only one serious problem remained: the "discrediting of Poland in the eyes of world opinion".

This discrediting, he suggested, was not the work of foreigners - but of Poland's own xenophobes.

STEVE CRAWSHAW

Kazimierz Dziewanowski, writer, journalist and diplomat; born Warsaw, Poland 7 November 1930; Polish ambassador to Washington 1990-1993; married (one daughter); died Pisz, Poland 20 August 1998.

Claudia Flanders



CLAUDIA FLANDERS spent more than 20 years working for disabled people after the death in 1975 of her husband, Michael Flanders, the singer-songwriter and one half of the musical partnership Flanders and Swann.

In 1987, she formed a new organisation, Tripscope, which provides free phone advice to disabled people planning trips anywhere around the world. Despite the silent doubts of many friends, Tripscope thrived, thanks partly to Claudia Flanders's tireless fund-raising efforts. At the charity's 10th anniversary celebrations last year, she recalled the words of her husband: "Nobody is interested in how you got

here, but, for a disabled person, that you got here at all is an achievement."

Born in the United States in 1933 to the writer Hope Hale Davis and the journalist Claud Cockburn, she was brought up in New England by her mother and stepfather, Robert Gorham Davis, a professor of Columbia University. She graduated from Smith College, and in the 1950s worked at Radio Free Greece and at the United Nations.

She met Michael Flanders just as his partnership with Donald Swann was starting to attract international attention. After their marriage in New York in 1959, Claudia and Michael toured the world

with Flanders and Swann's shows *At the Drop of a Hat* and *At the Drop of Another Hat*. Claudia was technical manager and creative consultant. "I only produce the show," Claudia has the hard job - producing me," Michael was often quoted as saying.

Since a severe attack of polio while serving in the RNRV during 1943, Michael Flanders had been confined permanently to a wheelchair. Claudia built on the experience she gained accompanying her husband on the Flanders and Swann tours and became an expert herself in making transport accessible to disabled people. She remained close to Swann after her husband's

death and held countless musical parties at which Swann would accompany distinguished performers of Flanders and Swann songs.

She became involved in a number of charities, including Cruse, the bereavement organisation, and the disability rights group Outset. Alf (now Lord) Morris, who was then minister for disabled people, appointed Claudia Flanders to the committee set up to investigate access for disabled people and then the Committee on Restrictions against Disabled People. She created the post of adviser on disability to the National Bus Company in the 1970s and for many years served on the national Joint Committee on Mobility

for Disabled People and the Department of Transport Advisory Committee on Disability. She was also a strong supporter of the Paddington Phab (Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied) Club, which brings together children with and without disabilities.

A member of the Association of Charitable Funds and a Justice of the Peace, she was appointed OBE in 1981 for her services to disabled people.

Flanders nurtured and supported people, often disabled people struggling to overcome everyday problems, with a spontaneous warmth and understanding. She never talked down to anyone, and

enabled each individual to appreciate that they were special, even if difficult officials appeared not to realise.

With her openness and emotional generosity, Flanders was a natural hostess who managed to make everyone, whatever their abilities, feel valued. She was also an accomplished clarinetist and linguist.

STEPHEN BRADSHAW

Claudia Cockburn, charity worker; born New York 11 February 1933; OBE 1981; married 1959 Michael Flanders (died 1975; two daughters); died London 25 June 1998.

John 11/10/1950



Harold Edwards

THE DEATH at the age of 102 of Harold Edwards in Brisbane ends the last link with the Australian Flying Corps and the shooting down of the German air ace the Red Baron, 80 years ago.

Edwards served as a Second Class Air Mechanic in the AFC in the First World War. His role in the death of Rittmeister Freiherr Manfred von Richthofen, more popularly known as the Red Baron, was peripheral. Yet he was able to bear out the Australian contention that it was their machine gunners, around the village of Corbie, who were responsible for engaging and shooting down the distinctive red Fokker triplane on 21 April 1918.

Edwards was born in 1896 in the Victorian mining town of Bendigo, where his father owned a jewellery shop. He was educated at the Central School and completed an apprenticeship as a watchmaker. He was keen to volunteer for the First World War, but his brother had been killed at Gallipoli and his father would not let him go until he was 21. He enlisted as an Instrument Fitter and trained as part of the Seventh Reinforcement to No 3 Squadron, AFC, leaving for England on his 21st birthday. He joined his squadron in France.

While Edwards only guarded von Richthofen's body, which was taken to Poulainville about 12 miles from the crashed craft, he claimed both to have seen the corpse and to know that the post-mortem examination had established the cause of death as a single bullet which pierced the Baron's heart. This evidence of the angle of the wound supports the claims that Australian gunners rather than a Canadian serving with the Royal Air Force (created 1 April 1918) were responsible for the Baron's death.

On 21 April 1918, the Germans had first engaged several slow Australian artillery observation aircraft. Allied fighters joined the battle, which soon became

a confusion of struggling planes, partially hidden from ground observers by a haze. According to the account of the Australian War Memorial, diving out of this dogfight came a British fighter closely pursued by a red German Fokker Dr 1.

A second British fighter, piloted by the Canadian Captain Roy Brown, followed these two. He fired several bursts at the German. As they neared the ground, Brown fired a final time and pulled away. The two leading machines continued low over the Somme River, across the Front Line and over surprised Australian troops.

Allowing the British aircraft to fly out of their field of fire, the Australians fired

action historian Norman Franks that it was Australian ground gunners rather than Captain Brown who should take the credit for this grim victory.

Furthermore, Australia's famed official First World War historian C.E.W. Bean was asked to investigate the incident the day after von Richthofen's death. He concluded that, because of the angle of the wound and in the absence of a British attacking aircraft, it was probably the fire of two machine-gun posts commanded by Gunner Robert Baile and Sergeant Cedric Popkin that claimed the life of the Red Baron. In 1935 Bean provided the official Aus-

had crashed because his plane was overloaded with nameplates.)

Edwards, however, played a further part in the death of von Richthofen. As a watchmaker, he was given the task of engraving a large aluminium plate with an inscription in both German and English to be placed on the Baron's coffin. This was to accompany a cross constructed from the Fokker's propeller, to be erected over the grave after the full military funeral at Bertangles.

This apparently caused great offence among the local French population who considered the burial place belonging to von Richthofen to have been responsible for the night bombing they had endured. As Countess-Clark remarked, it is unlikely that Edwards's handiwork remained very long. Edwards came back to Australia with the AFC in the middle of 1919. He continued to take an interest in the von Richthofen debate all his life.

During the Second World War he served in the Volunteer Defence Corps, from 1942 to 1945. He had meanwhile become an optometrist, a reserved occupation, and was therefore ineligible to serve with the regular forces.

Harold Edwards was a man of strong religious beliefs and for 50 years was a Methodist lay preacher. He was a founding member, in 1925, of Australia's charity for war widows and orphans Legacy in Bendigo, and served three terms as president of the Australian Optometrists' Association. He moved to Queensland in 1963 and in 1991 became an honorary member of the Australian Society of World War I Aero Historians.

CHRISTOPHER DAWSON

Harold Raymond George Edwards, airman and optometrist, born Bendigo, Victoria May 1896; twice married (both wives deceased); one daughter and one son deceased; died Brisbane, Queensland 9 August 1998.

Edwards claimed both to have seen von Richthofen's corpse and to know that the cause of death was a single bullet which pierced the Baron's heart

on the Fokker with their rifles and machine guns. The German broke off the chase and attempted to climb away. At this point the ground fire appeared effective, the target faltered, began a hunching, spiralling descent and crashed into the ground.

It became clear that the dead man was Germany's most famous and successful pilot. There was a rush for souvenirs and the damaged plane was thoroughly stripped. The aerial diggers were well aware of the value of the metal parts, controls and fragments of the red fabric.

It was only at Poulainville, the base of No 3 Squadron, AFC, that Edwards came to guard the corpse. His testimony about the angle of the fatal wound supports the conclusion of the British avi-

ation account together with a special appendix in the fifth volume of the official history.

The Australian historian Chris Coulthard-Clark points out that Edwards's original diary extracts provided to two American researchers in the 1960s did not mention any role he had played as a guard, or the pilfering of money, boots and other items ("trailing") which took place at the AFC base. (The Australian War Memorial has the Fokker's control stick, compass, various relics and both von Richthofen's heavy sheepskin boots, which were donated separately. It has so many metal plates engraved with the Fokker's serial number that one memorial staff member commented that von Richthofen

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

PARKBURST: Marion E. (nee Dryden), on 22 August, having bravely borne 85 over 32 years. Greatly loved by all the family. For funeral details, please telephone Wm Collins & Son, Burgess Hill, 01444 571515.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Grenadier Guards.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

MARRIAGES

Mr M. Young and Miss K. O. Petrusdottir. The marriage took place on Saturday 8 August in Budir, Iceland, between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Young, of Whitburn, Sunderland, and Katrin, daughter of Mrs Hrafnhildur Petrusdottir, of Reykjavik, and the late Mr Petur Palmason.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Martin Amis, novelist, 49; Miss Anne Archer, actress, 51; Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Armitage, former Commandant, Royal College of Defence Studies, 68; Mr Tony Armistead, actor, 37; Miss Pamela Armstrong, television presenter, 47; Mr Jonathan Ashley-Smith, conservationist, 52; Mr Sikander Bakht, cricketer, 41; Mr Conrad Black, chairman, The Telegraph, 54; Mr Sean Connery, actor, 68; Mr Ross Davidson, actor, 49; Mr Mel Ferrer, actor and film director, 81; Sir Malcolm Field, Chairman, Civil Aviation

MARRIAGES

Authority, 61; Mr Frederick Forsyth, novelist, 60; Mr Andrew Gardner, broadcaster, 66; Professor Peter Gray, former Master, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, 72; Mr Van Johnson, actor, 81; Mr Karl Korte, composer, 70; Sir Andrew Longmore, High Court judge, 54; Sir Donald Logan, former diplomat, 81; Dr Colin Lucas, Master of Balliol College, Oxford, and Vice-Chancellor, Oxford University, 58; Mr Brian Moore, novelist, 77; Mr Bryan Mosley, actor, 67; Mr Richard Muir, ambassador to Oman, 56; Miss Margaret Rothwell, ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Burkina, 60; Sir Crispin Tickell, Chancellor, University of Kent, 68; Mrs Nancy Trenaman, former Principal, St Anne's College, Oxford, 79; Mr James Wallace MP, 44; Professor Anne Warner, physiologist, 58.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Ivan IV ("The Terrible"), Tsar of Russia, 1530; Waldo David Frank, novelist,

1889; Bob Crosby (Robert George Crosby), dance band leader, 1913; Leonard Bernstein, conductor and composer, 1918.

Deaths: St Louis IX, King of France, a victim of the plague, 1270; Jan van der Meer (Jan Vermeer van Haarlem), painter, buried 1691; David Hume, philosopher and historian, 1776; James Watt, engineer and inventor, 1819; Sir William (Friedrich Wilhelm) Herschel, astronomer, 1822; Michael Faraday, chemist and physicist, 1867; Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche, philosopher, 1900; Ignace-Henri Joseph-Théodore Fantin-Latour, painter, 1904; Alphonse James Albert Symons, biographer, 1941; The Duke of Kent, killed in an air crash on active service 1942; Alfred Charles Kinsey, sex investigator, 1956; Truman Capote, writer, 1984.

On this day: the first daily scheduled airline flights started between London and Paris, 1919; the Treaty of Berlin was signed, making peace between Germany and

the US, 1921; Ramsay MacDonald formed a National Government, 1931; the RAF made the first air raid on Berlin, 1940; Paris was liberated by the Allies, 1944; the XVIII Olympic Games opened in Rome, 1960.

Today is the Feast Day of St Ebbas, St Genesius of Arles, St Genesius the Comedian, St Gregory of Utrecht, St Joan Antide-Thouret, St Joseph Calasanz, St Louis IX, King of France, St Memmas of Constantinople and St Patricia.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Alexander Sturges, "Flight (iv): Matteo di Giovanni, The Assumption of the Virgin", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Caroline Rimell, "French and Italian Interiors in the 1770s-80s", 2pm. Tate Gallery: James Maupas, "Our Mutual Friends: Victorian social realism of the 1860s", 1pm. British Museum: George Hart, "The Goddess Hathor in Ancient Egypt", 11.30am.

HISTORICAL NOTES

MANDY MERCK

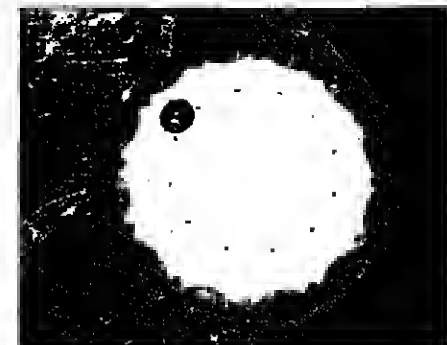
'The whole thing was grossly overdone'

A NATION united in grief? Not according to several surveys of reactions to Diana's death.

The British Film Institute asked nearly 500 viewers to record their personal responses to the television coverage of the mourning. Although 61 per cent watched the funeral, 50 per cent declared themselves not profoundly affected by the death and nearly 40 per cent complained that the coverage was excessive in extent or sentiment. A 77-year-old woman from Yorkshire said of the mourning that "the whole thing was grossly overdone". Her indignation echoes the viewers' revolt which restored ordinary programming to BBC2 on the first Sunday afternoon after Diana's death and the condemnation of its saturation coverage voiced by 98 per cent of those contacting Radio 4's Feedback. How do these statistics compute with the better-known figures of the Floral Revolution - more than a million people gathered in Central London to watch the funeral cortege, 290,000 queuing to sign 43 books of condolence, £36m worth of flowers laid across Britain?

Soon after Diana's death a number of commentators began to register doubts about Tony Blair's prediction that "the whole of our country, all of us, will be in a state of shock and mourning". Were the people queuing in the palace gardens truly grieving for someone they hadn't known or seeking to play their own part in a historic occasion? There was a metropolitan focus to the mourning, with the Queen being summoned back from Scotland to "her people" in the Home Counties. In contrast to the multi-cultural impression of the crowds conveyed by television interviews, the Observer counted a surprising number of Tory tabloid readers in the Mall. Others registered the unsurprising presence, in central London at summer's end, of large numbers of international tourists.

So who were the people for whom Diana was the People's Princess? As early as the second week after Diana "the people" began to appear in quotation marks. Indeed, on the day before the funeral, the Times's John Lloyd warned that in the People capitalised lay worrying reminders of a People's Democracy. Several feminist commentators interpreted the reactions to Diana's death as a popular revolt against



Post-Diana, the Dome 'might help'

both monarchy and sexism, while other feminists vigorously disagreed.

Meanwhile, neither monarchy nor sexism seemed in abatement, with post-Diana polls showing increased numbers predicting the crown's continuance into the next century. Yet here too "the people" seemed united only in despair, with one focus group as unenthusiastic about what was by then universally termed "the nation's longest-running soap" as they were pessimistic about its cancellation. As New Labour attempted to appropriate Diana's popularity to its own rule over New Britain, Peter Mandelson invoked the responses to her death on behalf of a nation reunited, beneath the canopy of the Millennium Dome: People feel atomised, fragmented and set apart from one another. They feel that the community spirit of the country has gone, diminished in recent years. The celebrations will enable people to come together to share something something people fell in the wake of Diana's death... I'm not suggesting the Dome will start us on a more upward course - but it might help.

Critics of this medieval monument to a mythical history on the site of an imperial timeline have noted that £75m could have built four major hospitals, wired up every school to the Internet or financed the threatened arts budget for the next four years. Or, one might add, paid for the monarchy for the next nine. Fittingly the Dome's design is strikingly coronal. And, as with the real crown, "the people" will bear the brunt of its costs. All in the name of a nation united.

Mandy Merck is the editor of *'After Diana: irreverent elegies'*, published tomorrow (Verso, £10)

Ned Kelly's father Red was a mean fellow

THE INDEPENDENT
ARCHIVE
25 AUGUST 1988

Australians on walkabout in a tiny Irish village have been hearing the truth about its most famous son, reports Stan Gebler Davies

AT FETHARD, in County Tipperary, members of the Historical Society have just revealed the true past of the most notorious felon ever to visit the place. It was not Oliver Cromwell, who behaved quite well when he passed through in 1650. The news is likely to upset some Australians in this, their bicentennial year, for it is now proved conclusively that John Kelly, father of Ned, their national hero, and a native of Fethard, was a mean fellow and a police informer to boot.

John "Red" Kelly was a big man. He was born up the road at Clonbrogan in February 1820 and transported to Van Diemen's Land in August 1841. Seven years after he was released from imprisonment there he fathered Ned, the notorious bushranger, on Ellen Quinn, an emigrant from Ballymena.

Australian patriots of the Republican stripe have always maintained that he was framed. He never stole the pigs for which he was sentenced, or, if he did, he stole them from a wealthy Protestant or an Englishman, which is no crime at all. Undoubtedly he told his famous son that he had been the victim of British imperialists, for Ned, before he was hanged (for shooting three Irish Catholic policemen, incidentally), was eloquent on that subject.

Alas, the true tale is not so heroic. The pigs belonged to James Conney of Ballysheehan, a close neighbour of the Kellys, who had three-eighths of an acre and a log cabin of their own, measuring approximately 27 feet by 15. The wretched Conney, by contrast, was a landless labourer who kept the pigs to

pay the rent. Kelly had picked on someone even more miserable than himself. The details are to be found in the police report filed at Dublin Castle under the title, "Report of Outrage No 36.081, dated 9 December 1840".

The day before his own trial he appeared as crown witness in the trial of one Reagan (no relation) who was sent down for 10 years for stealing seven fat cows. They were transported on the same vessel.

This new and precise intelligence is the consequence of the formation of the Fethard Historical Society in March of this year. There are many such societies springing up in Ireland now, most likely the consequence of an Irish desire to know what actually did happen in the past, now that history is happening to Ireland again, and mythology is plainly one of the contributing causes.

The members are amateurs but highly enthusiastic and thorough. The Ned Kelly subcommittee, consisting of Terry Cunningham, Mary Hanrahan and Maria Crean, had gone to

the trouble of organising a walkabout this week to take in the church where John Kelly had been baptised (it is to be pulled down next month), the Conney cabin whence the pigs were snatched, and the Kelly homestead itself, which is now the muddy section of a field inhabited only by curious heifers.

A high-powered delegation came down from Dublin to hear this new history, led by Mr Con Howard, co-ordinator in this island of the Australia-Ireland Conference. He is employed by the Department of Foreign Affairs to oversee cultural relations with the rest of the world.

The walkabout proceeded in three buses. There was a light drizzle coming out of the sky; it was a happy occasion. Standing on the mud which once constituted the Kelly cabin, a pipe played the lament called "Slieveannam", after the mountain which looms up above Fethard. In Ballyporeen, at the other end of Tipperary, the locals packaged dried mud and sold it as part of the Reagan presidential homestead but do not think the sensible people of Fethard will follow their example.

Sir Sidney Nolan, the Australian artist who has painted many scenes depicting the career of Ned Kelly, sent his greetings. He has bought himself a property in Co Clare. He is returning to his roots. He met in 1945 Ned Kelly's brother, which seems astonishing, and his own great-grandfather was one of the policemen who was sent to track the outlaw down. It is all history now.

From *'The Independent'*, Thursday 25 August 1988

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON
scrumpious, adj.

surprisingly, that scrumpious is probably identical with the dialect word scrumpious, meaning "mean, stingy, close-fisted" which is itself related to

scrumpion, a small quantity, from the verb to scrump. The meticulous perfectionism of scrumpion spread to a wider term of praise, especially of food. Joyce, in *Ulysses*, mentioned "scrumpious currant scones and raspberry wafers" - more pleasing, even if less quotable, than his scrumptiousness sea.

Age cannot wither them

The over-50s
aren't going to
shuffle into
retirement –
they're flying.

By Emeka
Nwandiko

SEVENTY-FOUR-year-old Charles Henley prepares to fall 4,000ft out of an aircraft above the Kent countryside. He slides over to an instructor, who makes a last check on his parachute, rip cord and harness. After the all-clear is given, he is free-falling for five seconds before the chute opens and he is sailing gently down to earth.

"I get a buzz every time," beams Henley, feet planted firmly on solid ground. Though he hates to admit to the eccentricity of his ways, he is the bane of many wives who hope their husbands in their thirties will one day "mature" out of what they perceive to be a childish and dangerous pursuit.

Henley has no intention of quitting: "One of the things about being up there is seeing fields, and the houses. It is just so peaceful." And by no means is he alone. It was revealed recently that Betty Boothroyd, the as-yet unretired Speaker of the House of Commons, 66, enjoys paragliding while on holiday in Cyprus. It appears that there were many senior citizens cresting the waves of Britannia long before it was the cool thing to do.

Take the case of 81-year-old Arthur Wheeling from Worthing, West Sussex. He hit the retirement age of 65 in 1981, and while his children might have hoped that he would apply for membership at his local bingo hall, Wheeler had other plans. After a 19-year absence from the professional motorcycle racing circuit, he donned his biking leathers, jumped on his 1954 red Moto Guzzi, and astonished spectators by heating the rest of the field of 40 younger riders in the 250cc category. "People think that, once you are over 21, you are on a slippery slope down. The general public don't have a clue. Once you have reached retirement age, they don't want to know you." In a defiant voice, he adds: "Younger people should come onto the back of my bike. I'll show them a thing or two."

He most certainly has. He has formed the habit of heating men more than 30 years his junior since his comeback. He has been in the top five positions in 23 out of 33 races, and he is preparing to compete in a national motorcycle meet in Belgium later this month.

So what accounts for the sudden fizz of Britain's estimated 18.5 million people over the age of 50? For one thing, it is not just Sanatogen pills that are making them "feel all right". According to an Age Concern spokesman, the current generation of senior citizens are in robust health, thanks in part to the National



Robert Relf, 74, believes that you're never too old to bungee jump

Health Service, which had its Golden Jubilee last month.

Another reason the survey noted was that the transformation of the workplace, the introduction of labour-saving devices, and the advent of electronic banking have all forced people to take early retirement. "At one time, people had just 15 years of their life left once they retired – now they can have 30 years to look forward to. Such a long period of time has made people wonder what to do with it," said the spokesman.

Figures released from the 1995 Census show that it is men who have more leisure time. In 1975, 84 per cent of all men were economically active in the age range of 60-64, while in 1995, the figure dropped to 50 per cent. In contrast, about 40 per cent of older women have remained in employment since 1975 to 1995, according to a survey conducted by Third Age Challenge in 1995.

Charles Henley, who retired in 1989, says that, although he was sad to leave his job looking after mentally-handicapped people, he was glad that the time had approached to "start living". And he adds: "I still find I haven't got time to do other things yet."

Ironically, the very technology that has provided Senior Citizens with ample leisure time is being used to maximum effect. "Travel has been made easier by the aeroplane, which has made the world a lot smaller. When I was young, I could only go on holiday for two weeks – now we can spend longer abroad."

And, from Liddard's account, Senior Citizens are not beach bums. "The clients that we are booking now are demanding more adventurous holidays – which include elephant rides, river-rafting in Chiangmai, Thailand, under-sea walking in Mauritius and parasailing in the Canaries," says Liddard.

Where is all this fizz coming from? It can't be just Sanatogen that is helping the 18.5 million over-50s in Britain feel good

says Arthur Wheeling, who flew to New Zealand to compete in a Handicap Race in Pukekohe last February. Needless to say, he came first. One company that has benefited from the wanderlust of the elderly is Saga. It provides leisure, financial and insurance services to the over-50s. According to its spokeswoman, Frances Liddard, the company, which provides 250,000 holidays a year, has seen the trebling of its long-haul holidays over the past three years.

At first glance, it might appear that grey power has much to do with the influence of the grey pound, as senior citizens take what Liddard calls "The holiday of a lifetime" once they have received their pension. But, according to figures published by the Department of Social Security in 1977, the number of pensioners with an occupational pension has risen by just 10 per cent from 15 per cent in 1974 to 25 per cent in 1995. The same government fig-

ures reveal that the numbers of pensioners claiming state benefit has remained at around 50 per cent since 1974.

Robert Relf relies heavily on his state pension to continue to lead a daredevil life. This Thursday, Relf will celebrate his 74th birthday by jumping from the world's highest (350ft) bungee-jump point in Inter-laken, Switzerland. "Bungee jumping is an expensive hobby, but I do it because of the element of danger and uncertainty. I still get butterflies like I did when I took my first jump, four years ago," says Relf.

Over the last four years, Relf has made 40 jumps, much to the agony of his four grown children. "They all think I am mad – they would not even consider doing what I do," says the former bus-driver from Birchington, Kent.

He adds: "My two sons and two daughters say I should take up bingo and ballroom dancing, but that does not appeal to me."

Relf believes the active life has enabled him to have a long life: "A lot of my workmates have just faded away, by sitting at home watching Scooby-Doo. If you are active, you are likely to prolong your life."

Need a marketing spin, please help

San Francisco beggars give it some schtick. By Richard Kelly Heft

"SMILE IS my trademark," says Carlton Jordan, 46, a Vietnam veteran who seeks personal donations at the corner of Powell and Market Streets in downtown San Francisco.

Indeed, Mr Jordan, though not a big smile himself, encourages grinning with his sign – which he holds and rotates about once every 10 seconds. On one side, it reads simply, SMILE on the other: "Hi. Wife kidnapped. 79 cents short of ransom. Please help."

Jordan lost part of both legs stepping on a landmine in Vietnam. The left leg is a "BK" (below knee) amputation, the right an "AK" (above the knee). He's no businessman and, despite his happy message, is actually a bit of a grump. (His response to one kindly woman who dropped by offering coffee: "What'd you buy that for, I don't drink coffee – you'd have done better bringing...")

But Jordan, like most panhandlers in the US, understands the importance of a schtick – or trademark, as he likes to call it.

This isn't true everywhere. In France, for example, it is far more common to see supplicant beggars with outstretched hands and despairing faces with longing eyes. In Spain, panhandlers will often lie stomach-down on the pavement, arms outstretched, hands cupped, heads bowed or face-down. This would never go over in the States.

Why lie?

It's for beer.

After all, if "the business of America is business", as President Calvin Coolidge said some 70 years ago, these profound words apply as much to panhandlers as anyone. To be successful, you must have some understanding of marketing and you have to hone your message. Begging is not easy anywhere, but in the mild and tolerant climes of San Francisco which presents a grail-like attraction to the homeless, competition is fierce. Outstretched hands alone won't cut it here.

Men late into middle-age, dressed in bedraggled army fatigues, carry signs that refer to their Vietnam service.

"Air Force Vet Needs work Please Help Sober!"

Carlton Jordan eschews this approach. "Why should I mention that?" he says. "No one gives a rat's ass about Vietnam anyway."

Jordan is so virulently against people looking for hand-outs based on their military service, he runs anyone using that approach off his prized downtown block. "Ain't nobody left round here saying they went to Vietnam, is there?"

Others take the long-term approach. Recently, a young panhandler, when politely rebuffed for a donation,

responded as follows: "Don't be sorry, man. You have a nice day, now." Gulp. He made his investment and waited for the dividend: it came on my return trip from the Seven-Eleven.

Of course, there are many less entrepreneurial types on US streets. Frequently, it's the youngest – teenagers who ask for money looking neither much in need nor having a compelling rap to go with the request.

There are those few poor souls who have given up altogether, who leave a hat or an old paper cup on the street while they lie propped up against a wall.

But in general, it is well understood that if you want to bring in the dollars you have to stand out from the crowd – just like any business.

"Please help. Sandi and I are just trying to survive. God Bless."

The Sandi of the above sign is golden-haired dog with an intense dislike for skateboards. She's owned by a gentleman named Harry, 50, of Durham, North Carolina.

Harry's been on the streets for about three years, ever since arriving in California, and admits the dog is good for business. When Sandi's not around, Harry says donations fall by as much as 50 per cent.

Carlton Jordan is a realist. He served his country in a long-ago war; he knows that doesn't evoke much sympathy these days.

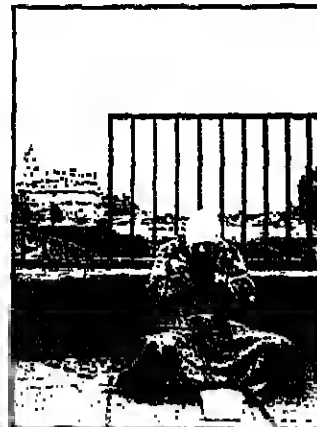
Too many other people on the street claim to be down-and-out for the same reason.

"Brother, can you spare a dime? I can break a fifty."

Who knows if any of them actually served, who knows if any of the hard-luck stories are true? Jordan reckons only about half those who say they're sick with AIDS, for example, actually have the disease.

One thing he does know is he wants his message to be positive. His sign is simple and powerful. On some days he switches to "Good Morning" or "Happy Friday" or "Welcome to Monday" on one side of his sign, but always, "SMILE" on the other.

It's his trademark, after all.



A pitch that bowls you over

'People smuggling is organised like a package tour'



Many of the refugees smuggled out of Hungary have little idea of how difficult life can be in the West

Continued from page 1
pass through Hungary. In 1994 border guards arrested 138 people smugglers. By July of this year they had detained 226. The Hungarian press is daily filled with reports of dozens of victims of failed-people smuggling operations, mainly Albanians from Kosovo.

"International organised crime realised the opportunity in this wave of migration. Now people smuggling is organised like a package tour, using tourist agencies as cover organisations," explains General Balazs Novaky, of the Hungarian border guard.

"Say there is a Turkish person who wants to go to Germany. They are given a telephone number in Istanbul or Ankara. They call it, and the whole process of illegal emigration begins. They say which city they would like to go to; they are told how much they must pay, what are the conditions of travel and where and when to go, usually as part of a group."

Many citizens of developing world countries such as Russia, Ukraine and Romania do not need visas to enter Hungary, so Budapest, just an hour and a half's drive from the Austrian border, is a natural collection point for the people-smugglers.

"They can come as far as Hungary legally, but from here they cannot enter Austria," says General Novaky. "Once they get to Budapest, the people-smuggling organisation takes over. Most of them don't know anything about where they are; they are handed

from person to person and put into hotels."

"From Budapest they are taken to the border in taxis, trains or buses, and there are people waiting to take them across. The people-smugglers take their papers and these are returned if they are successful. They take their papers, because if we catch refugees without papers we cannot prove who they are, and so cannot prove that people-smuggling is going on."

People-smugglers use routes originally set up to move drugs and weapons. Now human beings are a more profitable cargo

"The emigrants get different levels of help according to their financial background. The rich ones get high-quality forged documents; the poorer ones have much less security. The amateurs try to cross the Danube in boats."

Many of the refugees, who are often drawn from poor and isolated villages, have little idea about how difficult life can be in the West. But still it draws them like a magnet, says Istvan Dobo, of the Budapest Office for Refugees and Migration. And if Vienna is out of reach, then life in Budapest is certainly pleas-

anter than Kabul or Pristina.

"Hungarian law is much more liberal," he explains, "in the sense that all applications for asylum have to be properly considered. About 10 per cent of applications are granted, and the rest go to court. Even if the decision in court is rejected, the asylum-seeker can stay on, in effect, indefinitely, as the appeal process suspends the rejection."

Whether or not illegal immigrants claim asylum, Hungarian officials and border guards are preparing for a massive increase in the number of migrants, as EU membership draws closer. Then the front line in the war against people-smuggling will shift to Hungary's borders with Romania, Yugoslavia and Ukraine.

"When Hungary joins it will have borders with non-member states, so of course a lot more people will head for Hungary, partly because our standard of living will rise. And then once someone enters Hungary they will be able to travel freely in the EU."

It is ironic that back in the summer of 1989 it was the same stretch of border that Ibrahim and his family tried unsuccessfully to sneak through, which was torn open by the then Communist government. That opening released an outpouring of tens of thousands of East German refugees, and spelled the end of the Iron Curtain, the Communist bloc and, ultimately, the Soviet Union itself.

But now that border is, for many fleeing refugees, the final, uncrossable frontier.

A tragedy yes, a conspiracy never

The 'secret' French investigation into Diana's death is riddled with leaks – and they all say it was an accident

In the first hour of the last day of August, it will be exactly one year since a black Mercedes 280S, registration 688 LTV 75, collided with the thirteenth pillar of the most famous underpass in the world.

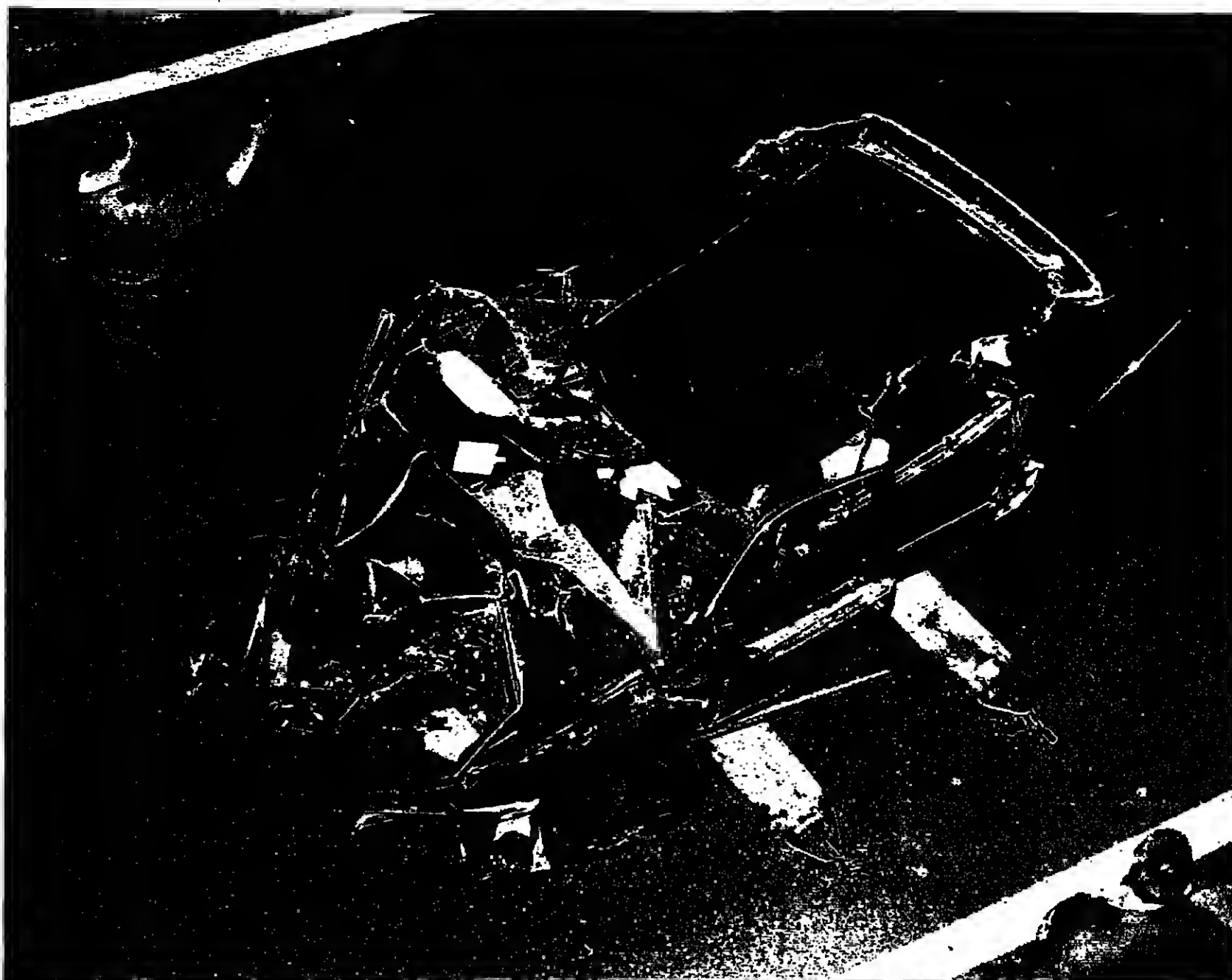
No road accident has ever been the subject of such minute and exhaustive investigation. No road accident has been the subject of so much journalistic curiosity. No road accident has been the subject of so much speculation, distortion and outright invention.

Almost 12 months after Diana, Princess of Wales, and her companions died, there is no absolute and definitive explanation of why their car left the road when and where it did. There are, however, some fairly clear indications, based on the virtually complete investigation of over 2,500 pages, which includes evidence from 300 witnesses and the work of over 1,000 police officers. It has comprehensively rejected all question of a conspiracy or assassination.

Three facts can now be taken as reasonably well-established:
□ The driver, Henri Paul, had been drinking heavily and had taken four different kinds of mind-calming and anti-alcoholic drugs. Claims that Mr Paul had not been drinking are mistaken. Apart from three published blood tests, the examination of his urine (never officially published) confirms that he was three times over the French alcohol limit.
□ The speeding Mercedes brushed a slow-moving white Fiat Uno just before it span out of control (The physical evidence proves that the Mercedes struck the Fiat a glancing blow, not the other way round).
□ The first of the pursuing pack of press photographers – on motorbikes and in cars – may have been closer to the Mercedes at the time of the crash than they have admitted. But they are not believed to have directly caused the accident (Their moral responsibility is another question).

There remain, also, three outstanding issues:
□ There is the failure of the French police to trace the Fiat Uno. In spite of reports to the contrary, the search for the car continues. The principle investigating judge, Hervé Stéphan, has virtually abandoned hope of finding the vehicle or its driver before he delivers his report.
□ There is some evidence of a brake fault on the Mercedes. A final, exhaustive examination of the re-constituted wreckage of the armoured limousine – and especially its brakes – is being undertaken. The report, twice delayed, is not due until late September or early October. This is the principal reason why the investigation was not completed in June, as planned.
□ There are growing doubts about the role of senior officials at the Ritz Hotel (owner Mohammed Al Fayed) who are alleged by some witnesses to have obstructed the investigation in the days after the crash. Both the British bodyguards who travelled with Diana's party that day, Trevor Rees-Jones and Kes Wingfield, have contacted Judge Stéphan in recent weeks and suggested that he should look more closely at the role of the Ritz, which employed Mr Paul and hired the crashed car. Both were employed by the Al Fayed family at the time of the accident; both have since resigned.

Why has it taken more than a year to investigate a simple road accident, if it was just that? Why are so many of the facts of the case still disputed or confused by the world's press (let alone the dotter theorists on the Internet)? Why could the Fiat Uno not be found?
Many of the problems arise from the collision between the French judicial system – exhaustive but secretive, and yet riddled with selective leaks – and the impatient Anglo-Saxon press, used to official co-operation and more reliable channels of information.
It should be remembered that this is not



Police remove the Mercedes from the scene of the crash. One theory is that the car had a faulty brake-alarm light

a public inquiry, but a criminal investigation. The investigating judge, Hervé Stéphan, is first and foremost trying to decide whether there are criminal cases to answer against nine photographers and a motorcyclist arrested at the scene or a couple of days later.

The 'Pont de l'Alma Ten' have not yet been charged with any crime; they have been placed under 'examination' on possible charges of manslaughter and failing to assist people in danger. Under the French system, in which criminal investigations are run by judges with the help of the police, Judge Stéphan is not trying to prove the guilt of the 10. His job is to gather all the evidence and write a report recommending whether or not to bring formal charges.

Of course, the celebrity of the victims means that this is not just any investigation. The pains taken are a tribute to the global interest in the case. In other respects, however, the French judicial system has not made any allowance for the overpowering international obsession with Diana's death.

All evidence before the judge is supposedly secret. In truth, the secrecy of the investigation is a sham. Like almost every high-profile judicial investigation in France, there are persistent leaks. Some have proved reliable; others less so. Confusion, understandably, reigns.

Some clarity is beginning to emerge, however. A recent book, *Enquête sur la mort de Diana*, by two French journalists, Jean-Marie Pontaut and Jérôme Pontaut, quotes at length from official witness statements and forensic reports presented

to Judge Stéphan. Based on this book, and other reliable-seeming leaks and the off-the-record comments of defence lawyers, it is possible to piece together the approximate state of official information, 12 months later, on the accident.

Diana and Dodi fled their paparazzi-haunted idyll in the Mediterranean at short notice. The French and British governments were not officially informed until the Harrods' Gulfstream jet arrived at Le Bourget airport at 3.20pm on Saturday, 30 August.

The governments may not have known.

They would shake them off, angrily changed plans and they took refuge at the Ritz. The mood of the couple that evening has been described by the bodyguards, and Ritz employees, as swinging between irritation and ebullience, and anger and happiness.

Dodi, anxious to redeem his promise to Diana, personally devised a plan to 'escape' from the Ritz by the back door in a hastily-hired Mercedes. The couple's earlier car and a Range Rover were to be decoys. Henri Paul, acting head of security at the Ritz and not a professional chauffeur, was asked by Dodi to come back to

guard. Trevor Rees-Jones, got into the Mercedes at the rear (Rue Cambon) entrance of the Ritz.

On the previous journey, taking a Japanese guest to Charles de Gaulle airport, a chauffeur noticed that the Mercedes' red brake alarm light was blinking on and off. This had previously been reported, but dismissed as unimportant. An earlier chauffeur had also reported that the car tended to skid from the rear if the brakes were applied hard.

Dodi's ruse, predictably, failed. The paparazzi pursued the Mercedes through the Place de la Concorde and on to the fast dual carriageway alongside the Seine, heading towards the Eiffel Tower. This was not the way to Dodi's flat on the Champs Elysées, where the couple were to stay that night. The diversionary route was chosen at the last moment, apparently by Mr Paul, to allow him to speed along the Seine banks and throw off the pursuing pack.

Why bother, one might ask? There were already photographers waiting outside the flat, as everyone – paparazzi, Dodi, Mr Paul – must have known. This was, in effect, a game, played by both sides, with varying degrees of good or bad humour: a game played a hundred times before.

Five minutes later, the Mercedes – travelling at an estimated 80-100mph – entered the sloping, turning road towards the tunnel under the Place de l'Alma.

No-one alive can remember what happened next, except, perhaps, the driver of a Fiat Uno. Forensic evidence – long, white grazes on the right front wing of the Mercedes and pieces of debris which could only come from a Fiat Uno – have

convinced the investigators that the limousine ran into another car as it entered the tunnel approach. There was also evidence on the roadway that the Mercedes braked violently for 20 metres.

In any event, the heavy, armoured limousine (which Mr Paul was not qualified to drive) skidded out of control and struck the parapet between the two carriageways. As it rebounded into the road, Mr Paul appears to have fought for control of the car, even pressing the accelerator to increase grip on the carriageway. But the Mercedes smashed into the thirteenth pillar of the underpass and span around to face the way it had come.

Dodi and Mr Paul were killed instantly; Diana died in hospital five hours later; Trevor Rees-Jones – the only member of the party to wear a seatbelt – survived, but gravely injured. He still remembers nothing of the crash itself.

Two reliable witnesses – a banker, George D., and his wife – saw a white Fiat Uno with a dog in the boot as it emerged, zig-zagging crazily, from the tunnel at about this time. In their deposition to the judge, they said the driver, a man in his 30s, appeared shocked and haggard, and was 'looking behind him, in his rear mirrors, as if he was waiting for something far behind in the Tunnel de l'Alma.'

All efforts to find the car have failed. Scores of the 112,000 cars broadly answering this description could not be found. Is this not odd or suspicious? 'Not so odd,' says one defence lawyer. 'If the person had been drunk, or in a place they should not have been, they would have the choice between owing up and having the world's media in their garden, or pushing the Fiat into a lake and saying they had left it abroad.'

There are conflicting accounts of how near the paparazzi were to the Mercedes when it crashed. Some witnesses say that the hikers were close to the car as it approached the tunnel; others – and the photographers themselves – say that they were trailing far behind. Some of the arrested paparazzi, not all, behaved appallingly in the minutes that followed, taking pictures of the dead Dodi and dying Diana, fighting among themselves. Only one tried to phone the emergency services, but dialled the wrong number.

To believe that these facts can be twisted into a shape which reads 'plot', you have to believe the following: That the British security services (or whoever) arranged for a flying Mercedes to be attacked by a small Italian car – a Fiat Uno! – on an unlikely route, chosen by Mr Paul only three or four minutes before. Alternatively, you have to believe – Al Fayed's latest theory – that the car was tampered with, even though it was not the car Diana and Dodi were supposed to use.

To believe it was an accident, you have to suppose that Henri Paul, approaching the tunnel at high speed, found a Fiat Uno lumbering in his path. He braked and clipped the car, and span out of control; or he braked, clipped the car and the defective brakes sent him into a spin. You do have to explain away the fact that Fiat Uno driver has never been found.

Judge Stéphan, by all accounts, has settled confidently for the second option: Diana died in a road accident. He must still decide however whether the paparazzi contributed to the deaths of three people and should be tried for manslaughter (thought to be unlikely) or whether some of the paparazzi, probably not all, should be tried for failing to assist the victims.

There is also an outside chance that he might recommend charges of negligence against the Ritz. Even if he does not do so, civil suits against the hotel from Diana's family and Trevor Rees-Jones seem increasingly likely.

What is less likely is that the full truth of what happened in the approach to the Tunnel de l'Alma will ever be known.

AFTER DIANA

THE INVESTIGATION BY JOHN LICHFIELD

but the paparazzi did. Tip-offs from Italian air-traffic control meant that – to Diana and Dodi's irritation – photographers were waiting for them at Le Bourget.

The couple went, briefly, to the Duke and Duchess of Windsor's old villa in the Bois du Boulogne, now leased by Mohammed Al Fayed. They went to the Ritz Hotel, owned by Mr Al Fayed since 1978, and then a large apartment owned by Dodi just off the Champs Elysées. Outside, there was a nasty shoving match with some of the paparazzi, including one or two of those later arrested.

As they drove from there towards a trendy restaurant in the Marais area of Paris, the photographers swarmed around the car Dodi, who had promised Diana he

would shake them off, angrily changed plans and they took refuge at the Ritz. The mood of the couple that evening has been described by the bodyguards, and Ritz employees, as swinging between irritation and ebullience, and anger and happiness.

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No-one alive can remember what happened next, except, perhaps, the driver of a Fiat Uno. Forensic evidence – long, white grazes on the right front wing of the Mercedes and pieces of debris which could only come from a Fiat Uno – have

convinced the investigators that the limousine ran into another car as it entered the tunnel approach. There was also evidence on the roadway that the Mercedes braked violently for 20 metres.

In any event, the heavy, armoured limousine (which Mr Paul was not qualified to drive) skidded out of control and struck the parapet between the two carriageways. As it rebounded into the road, Mr Paul appears to have fought for control of the car, even pressing the accelerator to increase grip on the carriageway. But the Mercedes smashed into the thirteenth pillar of the underpass and span around to face the way it had come.

Dodi and Mr Paul were killed instantly; Diana died in hospital five hours later; Trevor Rees-Jones – the only member of the party to wear a seatbelt – survived, but gravely injured. He still remembers nothing of the crash itself.

Two reliable witnesses – a banker, George D., and his wife – saw a white Fiat Uno with a dog in the boot as it emerged, zig-zagging crazily, from the tunnel at about this time. In their deposition to the judge, they said the driver, a man in his 30s, appeared shocked and haggard, and was 'looking behind him, in his rear mirrors, as if he was waiting for something far behind in the Tunnel de l'Alma.'

All efforts to find the car have failed. Scores of the 112,000 cars broadly answering this description could not be found. Is this not odd or suspicious? 'Not so odd,' says one defence lawyer. 'If the person had been drunk, or in a place they should not have been, they would have the choice between owing up and having the world's media in their garden, or pushing the Fiat into a lake and saying they had left it abroad.'

There are conflicting accounts of how near the paparazzi were to the Mercedes when it crashed. Some witnesses say that the hikers were close to the car as it approached the tunnel; others – and the photographers themselves – say that they were trailing far behind. Some of the arrested paparazzi, not all, behaved appallingly in the minutes that followed, taking pictures of the dead Dodi and dying Diana, fighting among themselves. Only one tried to phone the emergency services, but dialled the wrong number.

To believe that these facts can be twisted into a shape which reads 'plot', you have to believe the following: That the British security services (or whoever) arranged for a flying Mercedes to be attacked by a small Italian car – a Fiat Uno! – on an unlikely route, chosen by Mr Paul only three or four minutes before. Alternatively, you have to believe – Al Fayed's latest theory – that the car was tampered with, even though it was not the car Diana and Dodi were supposed to use.

To believe it was an accident, you have to suppose that Henri Paul, approaching the tunnel at high speed, found a Fiat Uno lumbering in his path. He braked and clipped the car, and span out of control; or he braked, clipped the car and the defective brakes sent him into a spin. You do have to explain away the fact that Fiat Uno driver has never been found.

Judge Stéphan, by all accounts, has settled confidently for the second option: Diana died in a road accident. He must still decide however whether the paparazzi contributed to the deaths of three people and should be tried for manslaughter (thought to be unlikely) or whether some of the paparazzi, probably not all, should be tried for failing to assist the victims.

There is also an outside chance that he might recommend charges of negligence against the Ritz. Even if he does not do so, civil suits against the hotel from Diana's family and Trevor Rees-Jones seem increasingly likely.

What is less likely is that the full truth of what happened in the approach to the Tunnel de l'Alma will ever be known.

'I felt sorry, but everyone went over the top'

There is no lack of sympathy for her family, but, a year on, few people feel that Diana's death changed Britain

Sarah Bowler, Chief Executive for Relate

The death of the Princess brought a lot of people up short because a death too early makes us all think of our own mortality. There is definitely a change of attitude among the media, politicians and opinion-formers. For example, the government is setting up Parvaneh, a helpline for parents to get everyday advice. It's the sort of help that granny used to provide before the extended family disappeared.

Diana was a role model for a lot of people and probably her television interview on Panorama raised a lot of awareness, but I think society was already changing as a whole.

One of the difficulties is that people are trying to latch that all on to an icon, who is Diana. We are changing because of a great interest in how relationships work and what is needed to support them.

I think that there is a heightened awareness of the effect of an individualistic society. There was a cult of the individual all about self-expression, personal growth and self development. Now there is a great under-



Sarah Bowler: 'People are trying to latch changes on to an icon'

standing of human beings to be interdependent, which is acceptance of the individual's right to share responsibilities. And that would have come about whether Diana was there or not. I think people are horrified at some of the violence among very young children and the impact in parts of coun-

try of juvenile crime. It's the effect of seeing homeless young people on the streets of our cities begging. If you grew up in the Fifties and Sixties you didn't see that.

Sarah Copp, 16, student, Neath, South Wales
I thought Princess Diana was a wonderful lady, but she died on my 16th birthday. I was really happy when I got up that day, but then I saw the television. I was really shocked. People were going over the top and everyone was talking about the death and how she died. It wasn't nice at all and I felt neglected. I didn't want a death on my birthday. It was really annoying. Everyone was really miserable all day, even when we went out for a meal in the evening.

I suppose people have changed because everybody was united in grief. But I think it was all very superficial really because I don't think anybody has changed. People know about her charity work but people have forgotten about her a bit. There's been a lot of talk but no action. However, I do think people have

changed the monarchy because she was more of a people's princess. She was more normal and they did seem to turn against her a bit. I think people made her out to be immortal like a goddess and I think people took it really hard when she died. They couldn't believe it. She was a household name. She'll go on forever in a way, because the work she did is being carried on and people still think of her.

Simon Gough, 38, recruitment consultant, Bridgwater, Somerset
I don't think Diana changed anything. The funeral was just mass hysteria like that old American shmalz.

Everyone just carries on as they have always been: good, bad and indifferent. There is a canonisation of her in the press and people talk about her now in the workplace, about all that she did and what a wonderful person she was. They do it now more than when she was alive. She's never going to die in people's memories.

I felt desperately sorry for her family when it happened. But everyone went over the top with Diana candles and the rest.

As a nation we haven't changed since her death. We've not lost our cynicism. Maybe barriers were broken down at the time, but this whole stiff upper lip thing is only a thing for the upper classes anyway. Ordinary people have never had that.

The backlash with the monarchy had been going on for a long time before Diana died, over tax and whatever. They don't care about people, they only care about their popularity.

I think that the Queen was pushed into a corner. Charles should not have been at the coffin, she was his divorced wife. I think what happened at the time was purely a PR exercise. The Royal Family won't change, but why should they? They are who they are.

They way people treat Diana now is a bit like the old Elvis thing. What a great career move. They only way her death has changed peoples lives is that they are sick of her and the Royal Family, especially with that dreadful tacky Channel 5 drama that was on the other night. It was an insult to her.

INTERVIEWS BY CATE WILLIAMS

IN THE INDEPENDENT THIS WEEK

AFTER DIANA

THE OUTSIDERS



WEDNESDAY

THE MEDIA



THURSDAY

THE MONARCHY



FRIDAY

THE LEGACY



SATURDAY

Out with Prada, in with Pampers

They've got it all, but what the pop chicks really, really want is a baby. Will the fans follow suit? By Nicole Veash

Suddenly it's all the rage among youthful female pop stars. Not body-piercing, top-heavy shoes or tattoos, but babies. All Saints' Melanie Blatt, 22, already the talk of the tabloids after appearing in concert with her swollen belly bulging out underneath a little cropped top, has been joined in approaching motherhood by half of the Spice Girls, Posh and Scary.

With this sudden blossoming into pregnancy, Girl Power has taken an unexpected twist. As Melanie Blatt's elegant bump grows ever bigger, the All Saints' shoulder-sloping routine is becoming something of a waddle, but pregnancy is not going to stop her going out on stage.

A chorus of family campaigners has been wheeled out to cast doubt on the girls' unmarried status. Since the Spices' huge fan base includes a high proportion of pre-teens, arbitrators of youth are questioning whether the unmarried Melanie Brown, 24, Victoria Adams, 23, and Melanie Blatt are sending the wrong message to impressionable fans about the joys of getting up the duff.

Whether or not one considers the girls' marital status to be a moral issue, presumably we can now expect to see throngs of teenyboppers wearing bulges like they used to wear belly-button rings. Hell, with her huge smile and elegant round belly, Melanie Blatt makes it look so easy.

All three girls, although unmarried, are claiming that they plan to marry the fathers of their children, just as soon as they get round to it. Victoria Adams' fiancé David Beckham needs all the good news he can get at this point, although she claims the pregnancy was unplanned. Mel B says she plans to marry her boyfriend, dancer Jimmy Guzar, and Jamiroquai bassist, Stuart Zender, will marry Melanie Blatt after the baby's birth.

Sorry, what was that again about Girl Power?

All of a sudden, our glam new pop stars seem to be hell bent on settling down, having a family and becoming responsible.

Cast your minds back to archetypal rock chick Marianne Faithfull. She had a baby with her first husband, art dealer John Dunbar, but always lacked the aura of contented domesticity that afflicts today's current crop of pop singers. Indeed Nicholas, her son, was removed from Faithfull's custody at the age of seven because she slipped into a somewhat unmaternal drug haze.

However the Spice Girls are threatening to turn all earth-motherish, à la Madonna, who incidentally waited until her late thirties before having a baby. This is a rather worrying thought, explains comedian Jenny Eclair. "In the old days, the managers would have made them have abortions. In fact you weren't a genuine pop star until you had at least three abortions behind you," she says.

"But I honestly think this is another phase in the Spice marketing plan. They can see the fans are getting a bit tired of their current image, so why not make them all mumsy? In one fell swoop the marketing men whack up the 'ahhh' factor among the pre-pubescent. And then there are the spin-offs. We've had the Shelley doll, Barbie's baby sister, now we'll have reams of Baby Spice merchandise."

"But more seriously, these girls have always had that desperate suburban streak in them. You can just imagine Posh in her mock Tudor mansion with loads of kids."

Alda, currently sitting at number seven in the charts with "Real Good Time", looks at things a little more seriously. She says competition to hit the big time is so intense that young stars often feel isolated once they become famous.

"These girls are all in their early twenties and are very young to be having children," says the 27-year-old Icelandic. "I think it could be something to do with being on the road. You leave your family and friends behind and the schedule is non-stop. By having a baby, you are forced to slow down and give some time back to yourself."

Although Alda has had numerous top ten hits in Iceland, she admits that children are far from her mind because her British career is only just taking off.

"I want to establish myself as a serious artist with a couple of al-

most nowhere else to go but to bow out gracefully, using the politician's favourite excuse: spending more time with the new family.

Indeed Melanie Blatt has already

I just want to be happy and have clever kids and a nice man that loves me. This baby has made me sane and calmer. I have a job to do now. A serious one - motherhood."

Kirstin Watson, features editor of teenage music magazine *Smash Hits*, said: "All the girls have said they want to get married and settle down with the men they love, which is no different from many other young women of the same age. Of course the average life span of a pop group is two or three years, so cynics would say they are preparing another life for themselves when their singing career is over."

For Spice Girl watchers at least, conspiracy theories are rife. Reports of the remaining four members of the band holding a crisis meeting over their collective future could herald the end of Girl Power.

Ex-Girlie Show presenter Sara

Cox, 23, thinks news of the double-whammy pregnancy might be the best excuse for the Spice Girls to bang up their platforms before things go sour.

"Let's face it," she says. "They've got the money, the fame, the hit songs, and their fans still love them. With Spice and Scary getting pregnant, they could quit while they're ahead. And because it is all supposed to be unplanned, no one will begrudge them moving out of the limelight."

Whichever pop star next succumbs to the voracious trend, one thing remains quite certain. Don't bother to watch for any signs of real pregnancy. You know, the varicose veins, the puffy legs, and generally dishevelled appearance. Pregnancy in pop land is all about smooth brown bumps and ever-so-tight cropped tops.



With her huge smile and elegant bump, All Saints' Mel Blatt makes it look easy. And don't expect to see the Spice mums in smocks and slippers, either

We can expect to see teenyboppers wearing bulges like they used to wear belly-button rings

bums under my belt before I start thinking about children," she says.

And perhaps this is the nub of the infectious Pregnant Pop Star syndrome. All three blooming mothers are, it can safely be assumed, at the pinnacle of their careers. There is

gone on record saying that she plans to quit the music business when she makes enough money. In a rather sobering statement for any 22-year-old, she said: "I don't think I'll be able to do this for long. It's a pretty soul-destroying environment."



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JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

11. CELEBRITY MAGAZINES BY JOANNA BRISCOE

WHAT DID I do before? As when meeting the love of your life, it's hard to recall with any emotional authenticity a previous existence. Celebrity magazines are so ingrained in every neuron, dendrite and synapse of me, so vital to my very serotonin levels, I can only remember life before *HELLO!* as one weary round of compromise with the *National Enquirer*.

"There's this hilariously awful new magazine. You'll love it," a perceptive friend informed me a decade ago. She was teasing, but little did she know that she had initiated 10 years of sick infatuation.

Celebrity magazines are my vice: my opiate, my empty calories. In short, my raging addiction. *HELLO!* is naturally the apogee of the genre, but *OK!* and *Now*,



Hot air or coolly ironic?

those stunningly titled plagiarists of style, have their own attractions.

HELLO! and its imitators are so perfectly attuned to the zeitgeist, they can even be credited with fashioning it, inspiring the weightiest broadsheets into a panic of ill-executed populism.

At a time when any old fantasist determined blonde with a C-list

boyfriend and the transparent dress of a PR can be famous; at a time when the lowbrow is fashionably ironic and it girls exist in a perfectly achieved solipsistic vacuum, *HELLO!* can create, elevate, and sustain itself on hot air.

The joys of the celeb mag are more subtle than the round of clichés concerning "charming" houses and the curse of *HELLO!* would suggest. There's a whole language of vicious understatement to be absorbed and understood.

Celebrity mags provide me with a simple parallel existence peopled by assorted Grimaldis, Mandy Smith, and terrible old Fascists. I can sit in a dumb yet happy haze on the Tube wondering about the love life of Tamara Beckwith.

This is an open addiction. Any accusations of airheadedness I will cheerfully confront.

There's a delicate psychological balance of motives involved: part *schadenfreude*, part secret admiration for such bare-faced chutzpah on the part of certain micro-celebs. The universal paroxysms of irritation inspired by Tara Palmer-Tomkinson perform their own service, uniting the group as only ganging up on the homely yet overconfident school pain in the arse can. The opportunism of one Emma Noble bonds readers in gleeful outrage.

HELLO! is the *Novo* of its era. It's Cool Britannia. It's *Punk!* for grown-ups. It's the celebration of C2s alongside nobis and Galapagos turtles. I owe it a decade of royal fun.

JP 11/10/98

How to make insult from injury

There is no easy way to make art out of war. Yet 'war art' is a form with which we are profoundly comfortable. Why? A new exhibition of work by Goya, Dix and Callot explores the contradictions of the anti-war war picture. By Tom Lubbock

Non se puede mirar: "One can't watch this" - that's how Goya captions one of his images of atrocity. A bloodied group of civilians, men, women and children, on their knees, weeping, hiding their heads, are begging for life. Their attackers are invisible, off-stage - represented only by the bayoneted muzzles of their rifles, that just poke in at the picture's edge. It's a brilliant, weird and rather show-off trick. The scene, of course, is all too watchable.

Everyone enjoys war art. We feel warmly about it, we settle down comfortably with it, we know what to expect and what we want from it: pity, outrage, fear, a kind of wonder. Its invitations are familiar. Naturally, when I say "war art", I don't mean pictures that celebrate heroic deeds or the splendour and steadiness of

Madness, senselessness, meaninglessness: these are the essential aspects of the modern war picture

the line of battle. I mean pictures that force you, or allow you, to know and see the worst. The worst for anything less would be a dereliction of duty - or of pleasure. Anti-war art, then? Hmm. Try this show.

Disasters of War offers a feast of the worst. It is a South Bank Touring Exhibition, just arrived at the Brighton Museum and Art Gallery. It takes its name from the title of Goya's great series of etchings made in the 1810s (a title that always sounds odd in English, with its suggestion of mere mishaps). It includes prints from Goya's *Disasters* and from two other series also. There's Jacques Callot's *Miseries of War*, made back in the 1630s, and Otto Dix's *War* made in the 1920s.

The three series form a kind of tradition. Goya knew the Callot. Dix knew both his predecessors' work. The three artists were each partly or wholly eye witnesses to what they depicted (Goya sometimes uses the caption "I saw this"). Dix served on the Western Front. Each series contains astonishing visions. Exhibiting them together is obviously a very good idea. This is an essential show. It tours on to Durham and Wolverhampton.

Showing the worst is the common



Otto Dix's 'Stormtroopers advance under gas' - the artist's war world is redeemed by an astonished incredulity; he cannot believe he saw it

thread here, and likely the first thing we pick up on. At least, scanning Callot's small and incident-packed images, I realised that what mainly led my eyes was the search for something particularly degraded or gruesome, so as to report it. My thinking was that Callot was the least known of these three, and that producing a poignant horror would be the best way to get the unfamiliar reader's interest; to say here's a serious war artist. So, in *Plundering a Farmhouse*, you find the farmer hung up and roasted in his own fireplace.

Goya's vision is heavier and blunter. It's an unrelentingly repetitious barbarism he lays out - massacres, rapes, corpse-mutilation - a violence that seems mechanical and gratuitous, and which accumulates without climax or development ('The Same', 'Likewise' are common captions).

Dix, on the other hand, offers no

scenes of combat or violent action; rather, a series of disconnected visionary flashes, bringing unbelievable sights into view - shell craters lit up by flares at night, corpses strung out on the wire like Christmas decorations, flesh mingling into mud, or caught in incredible tableaux, like the dead man sitting there with plants growing out of his shattered skull as if it were a flowerpot. And we watching viewers, where do we stand? Are we saying, "I want this to stop" - or "Show me another, please horrify me some more"?

The dilemma turns up in an odd way. Reading through the catalogue, you notice how a single thought recurs. "There is no need to stress the

relevance of these works to the present" (says the curators' introduction), and "Its relevance is as strong today as it was in the circumstances of his time" (the essay on Goya), and "Has anything happened since then to make it irrelevant today?" (the essay on Dix).

It's a curious, double-binding formula, because it's not quite clear if they're praising the artists for being abidingly relevant, or blaming the world for being unteachably warlike. It sounds like they'd ideally want to say: these works are now fortunately quite irrelevant. But they wouldn't really want to say that, would they?

In Dix, say, the fact that combat is edited out might sound like a decorum, but actually it's part of a larger omission: no one is shown doing anything militarily useful. All purposes are removed - no fighting, only its effects. The Western Front becomes a holiday in hell.

This tendency is still more pronounced in Goya. In his war, senselessness is a general condition of all action. His figures - be they victims, aggressors, resistors - move somnambullistically. Whatever they do, they stumble into it. The difference between living and dead is only a nuance of inertia. But Dix's war-world is still redeemed by an astonished incredulity - he cannot believe he saw it. And the tarnished vision of humans so prominent in his paintings is usually suspended in these etchings; his soldiers are wretched, but not cockeyed sickos.

Goya's scenes are a reminder that emphasising the 'senselessness' of war is a doubtful anti-war gambit

In Goya, evil is done and suffered with a blind and helpless predictability. One can hardly say whether his point is that war causes universal dehumanisation; or that war is only the most vivid proof of humanity's inherent brutishness. His scenes are a reminder that emphasising the "senselessness" of war is a doubtful anti-war gambit - a satisfying insult to war, but a pessimistic doctrine when it comes to keeping the peace. For what could be the cure for senselessness?

Probably the totally anti-war war-picture is an impossible idea, and it's hardly worth calling this an irony, or being extremely troubled by it. Turning from the heroic paths of glory is one thing. But a humanitarian indictment turns out to require just the same visual support as a theatre of sadism. However you show them, the horrors will be too interesting, too exciting, or too remote, or too inevitable. One shouldn't even expect to find a right way of seeing the subject. But watch on anyway.

'Disasters of War' is at Brighton Museum and Art Gallery, till 4 October; admission free

A window into the intimate secrets of the body

INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO BUYING AFFORDABLE MODERN ART

TO MENTION "body parts" and "art" in the same breath is to raise visions of foetus earrings and stolen cadavers. But there are legal ways of revealing the sculptural aesthetics of, say, the penis - or, as Annie Cattrell shows here, the heart and lungs.

She used glass to make a slightly larger than life size interpretation of Guy's Hospital, London. She has titled it "Access", because it presents to us anatomical organs that we never see, although they are part of us.

Glass exposes that illusive intimacy perfectly. Like our in-

nards, it is solid. But, unlike our innards, you can see right through it.

Cattrell, 35, an RCA graduate, consulted George Bridgman, senior chief technician at Guy's Hospital, London. He sees cadavers every day. She never saw one, but she studied the detailed casts he makes by pouring resin into the tree-like formations of blood or air vessels before removing the flesh itself with a corrosive solution. His colourfully painted casts are used to teach students anatomy.

It is impossible to work so closely with nature - even expired nature - without developing an aesthetic appreciation

of it. Mr Bridgman's aesthetic is somewhat different from Cattrell's concept of paradox. For him, the wonder lies in the way veins and alveolae not only transport blood and air, but also form the substance of heart and lungs.

He says: "If you pour resin into the aorta then dissolve the tissue away, you end up with something that looks exactly like a heart because there is not a single square centimetre of tissue that does not have a blood supply. If it had none, it would die."

"It is the same with the bronchial tree. The branches go to every part. I sit back and

think how beautiful it is."

The minds of the medic and the artist came together when Mr Bridgman started to show Cattrell the anatomy of the nervous system (which has to be copied in wire, instead of cast, because its channels are tiny and tubeless). He showed her one of those cartoon-like diagrams showing how different areas of the body's surface vary in sensitivity according to how many nerve-endings they have - the head, hands and feet are shown big, the lips and tongue grotesquely so, the torso tiny. There are far fewer nerve endings in the internal organs, he told her, than in the surface of

the skin. That confirmed her vision of an interior world of which we are scarcely aware. "As a child", she says, "I had seen a diagram like that, but I didn't understand it. In fact, I found it rather frightening."

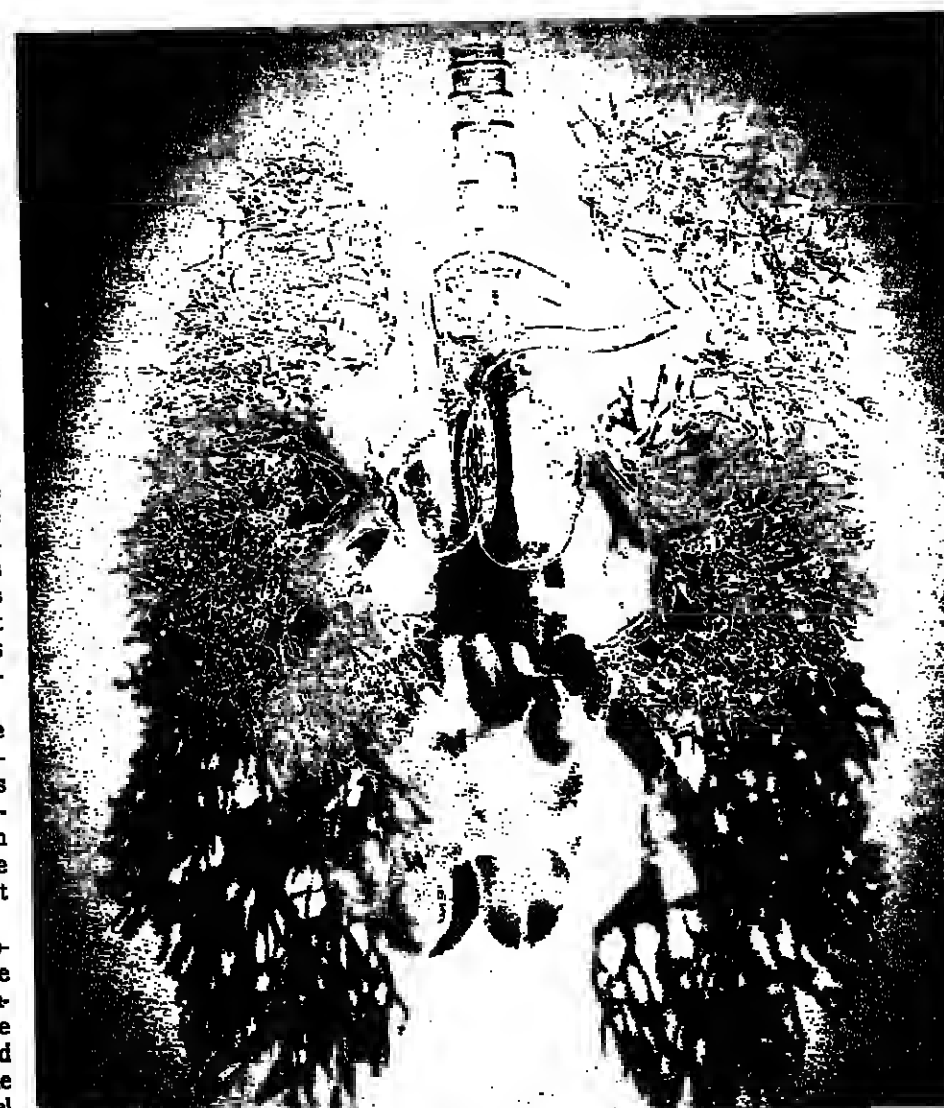
She adds: "We know we have an outside and an inside, but there are also these channels that are unconsciously taking outside things - air, food, even dust - straight into the centre of our bodies. When things are running well, we take for granted all the automatic processes that are going on - the rhythms of breathing, the pulse. I'm not a religious person, but this is the closest I have come to a belief system."

"I'm also fascinated by the way cells divide to create a person. You wonder how it happens - and this is one of the advantages of using glass. You can look closely at a glass sculpture but it's still difficult to work out how it has been made."

She commissioned a professional glass-blower to make the trachea and the twin chambers of the heart - alternate heating and blowing produced the appropriate bulges. The delicate filigree of the bronchial tree she made herself, heating, sticking on and teasing out thin rods of glass under a turret flame lamp of the kind used by glass sculptors on seashore piers. She chose strong Pyrex silicate glass, used by makers of laboratory apparatus, rather than the soda glass of pier sculptors.

She intended the result to look like a cross between a diagram and reality. "It's so fragile, so fine, that it looks like something that's not really there. But if you brushed past it, it would break."

Cattrell has exhibited widely and is currently a senior lecturer in fine art at the Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education. Her next challenge will be the nervous system.



'Access': Annie Cattrell's heart and lungs of glass

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Prices: from £1,500. Annie Cattrell: 0181-964 5153. 'Access' is in the group show 'Small Miracles' organised by Rose Frain at Miracles, 5 St Stephen Street, Edinburgh EH3 5AN (0131-225 2294)

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL '98

Good heavens, they're alive!

Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson are more than 100 years old and still in the detective business.
In an exclusive interview, David Benedict talks to the World's Greatest Detective and his chum

WE'VE NEVER met before, but within seconds of my arrival at a secret address in Covent Garden, he's pinned me down. To my astonishment, he knows where I've come from and my mode of transport.

"But how?" I cry, baffled by his legendary perspicacity. He fixes me with a beady eye. "By the small dark patch on the left handle of your briefcase. It suggests a limey dirt track of the kind only to be found near the Elephant and Castle. You must have slipped on the way due to a loose horseshoe." Apart from the taxi, he's right in every particular.

Even if it weren't for the masterly deduction, there's no mistaking the cloak, the pipe, and the gaunt, knife-



The great Sherlock Holmes holds a mirror to his faithful companion Doctor Watson in 'Move Over Moriarty'

Geraint Lewis

Once and for all they are putting to death the vicious rumour that they are just fictional characters

edged profile jutting out beneath the deerstalker. I am in the presence of Sherlock Holmes. Had it not been for the peculiar demise of the trapeze artist Flying Fernando and the devilishly cunning Garibaldi Biscuit Affair, we might never have known the truth. When the trusty Sir Arthur Conan Doyle died in 1890, the world assumed that Holmes and his sidekick Dr Watson had gone with him. But no. They're very much alive.

Once and for all they are putting to death the vicious rumour that they are fictional characters. After months of delicate negotiations, the two bachelors have agreed to come out (of hiding) and talk - and do they have scores to settle? Does Mrs Hudson bake a mean fish pie? Conan Doyle made a pretty penny out of them with four so-called "novels" and 56 "short stories" but they never saw a penny in royalties, although, in Holmes's words, "We're modest men. We live together in our flat at 221B Baker Street." Alone? "We don't like to talk about it."

Nevertheless, their reputations have been sullied in over 50 plays and 150 films. They regard themselves as having been immortalised in the thoroughly respectable pairing of Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce. Billy Wilder's film *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, however, found Robert Stephens nursing a nasty cocaine habit. "If we'd had a better lawyer we'd have sued," exclaims Holmes.

They had even less time for Gene Wilder as *Sherlock Holmes's Smarter Brother*, aided and abetted by Marty Feldman. Gerry Rafferty used up all his inspiration trading on their association in his sex-drenched one-hit wonder "Baker Street", and Ron Moody widened his repertoire of famous Londoners playing the title

role in *Sherlock Holmes, The Musical*. This less-than-toe-tapping tuner included such capital treats as "London Is London", "Down the Apple's in Pears" and the existentialist duet for its lead characters, "Without Him, There Can Be No Me".

The world is still waiting for *Sherlock Holmes - The Opera*, but their most sublime manifestation yet was undoubtedly 1953's *The Great Detective*, which, I regret to inform you, was a ballet. This strangely neglected jewel, the first (and last) full-length work of one Margaret Dale for Sadler's Wells, featured the corps de ballet dancing the Murderous Villains and Respectable Folk. The dual role of The Great Detective and The Infamous Professor (Moriarty) was created by none other than Kenneth

MacMillan who, in the climactic scene, displayed "The Detective's mastery of the art of ju-jitsu, upheld the law and, with the assistance of his disguises, performed his Dance of Deduction".

Holmes and Watson agree that the Royal Ballet could do no better than to revive it for the re-opening of Covent Garden. All this time, the once and future detective and his friend have been pondering over their enduring fame. "The sound of horses' hooves on cobbled streets, the fog - that's always attractive," proffers the roly-poly Watson. "It's Merchant/Ivory meets *Inspector Morse* with a bit of *The Forsyte Saga* thrown in. People just lap it up." Holmes nods, agreeably. "Yes, our characters are appealing, aren't they? You've always called me

an enigma, but actually I'm a gentleman." And I'm just a blithering idiot," beams Watson. "True," remarks Holmes, puffing away at his pipe. "No one would be interested in your adventures." As Holmes points out, even Watson's name is nondescript. "His mother said, 'I'm going to name him after the first person I see'. So there he is: Doctor Watson. The man has nothing to do with medicine."

This male-bonded banter conceals tensions in their relationship. Watson has nothing but open-mouthed praise for "Holmes's enormous deductive organ", but he's also deeply troubled. As visitors to the University of Minnesota (repository of the world's largest collection of *Sherlock Holmes* memorabilia) will attest, there's the nasty business of the nee-

dies: Holmes is a self-confessed addict. "Yes!" he cries, his wild eyes racing from his violin to the works in his pale hands. "French Knitting! I'm busy on a sideboard cover and an eye patch to wear on the train to the Edinburgh Festival."

So all that drugs talk is trumped up? "Oh no. I do that too," he smiles, blithely. Watson explodes in despair. "If only we'd had a drugs czar in 1898," he wails. "I can't bear to see you destroying your brilliant mind. You cut out everything. You cut out your work, you cut out your friends, you cut out strings of little men from folded-up copies of *The Times* - I can't bear to watch it happen!"

He's suggested 12-Step programmes and even breathed the words "Betty Ford", but "He won't

listen to me. It's only when his deductive organ isn't being used. It turns in on itself and heads off to the medicine chest. I've tried hiding the key." "Yes," whispers Holmes. "But always in the same place."

But no one can beat Holmes. They have little time for the subsequent jumped-up porcupines. They pooh-pooh the amateurishness of Miss Marple, the pomposity of Agatha Christie or the flavourlessness of Inspector Wexford. They see themselves as the beginning of a line that has led to Amanda Burton in *Silent Witness*. "I've lent her the deerstalker for the next series," observes Holmes.

Their enduring prowess can be seen in *Move Over Moriarty*, the

Watson has nothing but open-mouthed praise for his friend's amazing 'enormous deductive organ'

dramatisation of their latest perplexing case. They've narrowed the list of suspects down to the *habitués* of a music hall. Who is the murderer who strikes and leaves behind the Garibaldi biscuit? Death-Defying Dan and his Whells-Infested Tank of Terror? Or the male impersonator, Miss Vesta Curry, and her Novelty Pipe-Smoking Act? Could it be Elsie Linnett, the Generously Proportioned Bulgarian Songstress?

One thing's for certain, literature's biggest names are fighting over the affair of who should chronicle their continuing exploits. The words "Martin" and "Amis" are in the air. "He could start with the solution and then work backwards to find out who's been killed," muses Holmes. "But we've found the solution." Who is it to be? "Elementary, my dear - Jeannette Winterson."

Maggie Fitz and Sue Ryding, aka Lip Service, play Holmes and Watson in *Move Over Moriarty* at the Assembly Rooms, 0131-226 2428

Going for the throat

EDINBURGH'S FRINGE is probably most celebrated for theatre and comedy, but there is also a bewildering variety of music.

Things have been particularly busy at the magnificent Episcopal Cathedral, which possesses the best smaller choir in the city; amongst lunchtime recitals, concerts and late-night organ events was an excellent programme by the cathedral's lay clerics on Tuesday, mixing quirky archaic medieval material with glorious renaissance polyphony. Gombert's *Magnificat* showcasing this choir's beautiful sense of line and intonation.

Very different was a presentation on Chopin's visit to Scotland, at the Assembly Rooms. A sort of cross between a recital, a reading and a lecture, there was something a little homespun about it all, and the piano playing, though technically competent, was hardly inspired. Still, this was a fascinating tale of the tired and ill composer's experience of hospitality at the hands of "his Scottish Ladies".

We moved on to another plane

MUSIC ROUND-UP

with the production by U Nikitskikh Vorot Theatre of Moscow of *The Story of a Horse* - "the most famous of Russian musicals" - by Leo Tolstoy. Given in a very spare staging in St John's Church, in Princes Street, the piece relied heavily on the actors' histrionic powers (considerable). The songs and music were characteristically soulful and/or frenzied, and the creation of a strong atmosphere out of almost nothing remarkable.

Closer to home (relatively speaking), the intriguing-sounding *Tri x Tri*, at The Famous Grouse House was a collaboration between a poet, dancer, sculptor, singers and pipers, all from Gaelic-speaking parts of Scotland. There was real excellence - particularly from the singers and pipers - but the whole thing had a curiously flat, low-key feel in terms of presentation. And there was an uncomfortable sense of brooding

over past wrongs, particularly with the poet Peter Campbell, to whom Culloden and the Sive bridge toll seemed to be equally wicked and clearly the work of the dastardly English.

One place where you are guaranteed an entertaining and politics-free evening is the Café Grattini, at Mansfield Place Church; artists from all over the world provide a virtually continuous programme of fine music into the wee small hours. Particularly outstanding have been Cristina Branco, a Portuguese *fado* singer, whose expressive vocals held audiences spellbound, and the amazing Huur Huur Tu. From camel-riding songs to Buddhist ritual chanting, these four Mongolian throat singers have to be heard to be believed. Echoing through the mystic spaces of this remarkable venue, their evocation of primeval Siberian forests, complete with birdsong and animal cries, was quite trance-inducing and the most extraordinary thing I've heard so far on the Fringe.

LAURENCE HUGHES

A black look at the family sitcom

IF ONLY all early evenings were like this. Modelled on that most smugly bourgeois of entertainments, the TV sitcom, *Francis Ozon's* sunnily-shot domestic melodrama proceeds to plant a stick of sexually subversive dynamite under the nuclear family, and watch it explode into an outrageous round of homosexuality, incest and S&M.

The film opens with a red velvet curtain drawn aside to reveal an idyllic suburban home. Inside, the household are gathered to celebrate Dad's birthday but the sound of cheery singing is interrupted by shooting as the birthday boy snuffs out his extended family like candles on the cake, before turning the gun on himself.

Rewinding a few months, Ozon describes the bizarre event leading up to this massacre, which all begin with the arrival of a cage containing a white pet rat.

FILM SITCOM CAMEO 1

As each member of the household slipped the catch to play with the rodent, a Pandora's pet shop of dark desires are unleashed.

First the studious young son, Nicolas, announces that he is gay, then daughter Sophie sleep walks her way into an unsuccessful suicide attempt which leaves her as a wheelchair-bound paraplegic.

Before you can say "daytime soap" Nicolas is losing his virginity to the maid's husband and hosting orgies in his bedroom, while bitter dominatrix Sophie leads her leatherbound boyfriend around on a leash.

With a nuclear family meltdown fast approaching, Stepford mum

Helene blithely continues with her usual routine of aerobics and psycho analysis, while stern patriarch Jean hides behind his newspaper and a string of meaningless platitudes.

Absurd, excessive and wildly iconoclastic, Ozon's genre-spoofing black farce offers a glossy, Gallic spin on John Waters. Bringing a distinctly queer sensibility to his subject, Ozon sends up contemporary "issue drama" with a wicked, manic energy.

And if his taboo-breaking tactics run out of steam somewhere before the film's conclusion, he still deserves credit for creating that rare thing: a funny French sex comedy.

Sitcom shows at Cameo 1 this Friday 0131 228 4141

LIESE SPENCER

DAY PLANNER

YOUR HOUR-BY-HOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S BEST AT THE FESTIVAL AND FRINGE

11 AM

THEATRE

11.30-12.15 Play Wisty for Me: The Life of Peter Cook. Few people could speak with the voice of EL Wisty as surely as Matthew Perret in this two-man show about Cook's life and work. It never outstays its welcome and individual gags are hilarious. *Pleasance Below*, to 31 Aug, £5-£6 (£4-£5)

12 NOON

THEATRE

12.30-2.00 Richard III. Malachai Bogdanov's toddler version of the Shakespeare play may rob the characters of their full range, but the cast achieve the fusion of kindergarten and courtly intrigue with aplomb. *Pleasance, Venue 33*, today and tomorrow, £8 (£6).

2 PM

CHILDREN

2.00-2.30 The Nutteracker. Tchaikovsky's ballet with spectacular giant puppets. *South Leith Parish Church Halls (venue 180)*, Henderson Street. Until 29 Aug (not 23).

4 PM

THEATRE

4.35-5.35 Tamogotchi Heaven. Adults-only tragicomic tale of a woman and her cyberpet. *Pleasance (venue 33)*, 60 The Pleasance (£55-£50). Price £6.50 (£5.50). Until 31 Aug.

COMEDY

4.50-5.50 Peepolykus - Horses for Courses. Acclaimed surreal comedy thriller *Pleasance (venue 33)*, 60 The Pleasance (£56-£50). Price £7 (£6). Until 31 Aug.

7 PM

DANCE

7.20-10.30 Destino Tango. With Dutch maestros Sexteto Canyengue and dancers Club Tango 5. *Grattini, corner of Broughton and East London Streets*. Price £8.50 (£7.50). To 31 Aug (not 25).

8 PM

DANCE

8.15-9.30 Cool Beat, Urban Heat. One of the most exciting American dance shows of the year. *Rapid-fire jazz plus the power of hip-hop. Gilded Balloon*. Price £9.50 (£8.50). To 5 Sept.

9 PM

COMEDY

9.00-10.00 Jason Byrne. Frenetic and lunatic humour from one of this year's serious Perrier contenders.



Cool Beat, Urban Heat

The king of off-the-cuff, he takes look-at-me pantomime to an art form. His first solo Edinburgh show. *Pleasance (venue 33)*. Price £7.50 (£6.50). Until 31 Aug.

COMEDY 9.25-10.25 Al Murray: the Pub

Landlord, Keeper of the Pint Cosmic. Cruelly denied the Perrier Award on two previous occasions, Murray returns for a third stint behind the bar with his acute observations on just what it means to be male and British. Not to be missed. *Pleasance (venue 33)*. Price £8.50 (£7.50). Until 31 Aug (not 25).

COMEDY

9.45-10.45 Junior Simpson. More up-to-the minute material from the popular stand-up who dares to tackle issues such as the fiasco surrounding the Stephen Lawrence trial. *Assembly Rooms*, to 30 Aug, £9-£10 (£8-£9)

10 PM

COMEDY

10.15-11.15 The League Against Tedium. Simon Munnelly's megalomaniacal creation - an antidote to middle-of-the-road comedy blues

and an outside bet for this year's Perrier Award. *Pleasance Above (venue 33)*. Price £8-£9 (£7-£8). Until 31 Aug (not 25).

COMEDY

10.00-11.10 Mark Little: Spontaneous Combustion. From the suburban Australia of *Neighbours* (where he played loveable scamp Joe Mangel) via the *Big Breakfast*, to stand-up in the Georgian splendour of the Venice of the north. Mark Little, artifice stripper, comes to Edinburgh. *Assembly Rooms*, to 29 Aug, £9-£10 (£8-£9)

11 PM

THEATRE

11.15-12.25 Derevo. The Russian mime company returns to the Fringe with a new show. *Pleasance*, to 31 Aug, £7.50-£8.50.

FESTIVAL EYE

SO, FAREWELL then, *Soldiers*, the Grassmarket Project show at the Traverse examining "what happens to a man when he kills" and featuring real combat veterans. It had to be pulled at the end of last week - two weeks before the end of its scheduled run and just days after a feature on the BBC's *Edinburgh Nights* - when a key player, Nick Glasnovic (former commander-in-chief of the Bosnian Croatian army), decided to desert and head back to Croatia. Glasnovic's harrowing stories of atrocities during the Bosnian civil war and his heartfelt tributes to team spirit were the play's emotional ammunition. What on earth can the reason be for his departure? His country needed him, say the Traverse. But a quip Glasnovic made before going AWOL suggests a more plausible explanation. Asked why he got involved in the project, he said: "I was promised blonde babes and a bottle of vodka, but no show."

TICKET OFFERS

Take a copy of today's *Independent* to one of the venues below and get yourself some free tickets:

A pair of tickets for the first five readers at the box-office: *Pleasance (venue 33)*

8.15-9.15pm: Andy Parsons. (*Pleasance Over the Road*) A pair of tickets for the first five readers at the box-office: *Calder's Gilded Balloon (venue 38)*

3.45-4.45pm: *The Road to Largs. (The Wee Room)*

11.30pm-12.30am Tim Vine (Main Theatre)

JP 11.15.50

HEALTH

Battle of the booze

You may think you drink very little. But research shows that more and more people are binge drinking, and the effects can be disastrous. By Ben West

It's been a bad summer for alcohol. Along with the public "battles with booze" fought by Caroline "Mrs Merton" Abernethy and Coronation Street's Curly Watts, there's also been the really tragic cases: the fatal drinking sessions for actor Kevin Lloyd from *The Bill* and, more recently, David Cheek, Paul Gascoigne's friend.

On the night of David's death, the 43-year-old had drunk five pints of lager, some wine and a strong Italian spirit, grappa, while dining with Gascoigne and friends.

It's hardly surprising that binge drinking remains popular, considering the positive press alcohol has enjoyed in recent years. Drinkers throughout the land have had a number of opportunities to raise a glass and celebrate: the relaxation of pub licensing laws, the launch of youth-friendly alepubs and an increasing number of high-strength brands and the Government's raising of recommended units we can consume.

True, evidence suggests that moderate amounts of alcohol raise levels of HDL cholesterol, the "good" kind. Alcohol also seems to protect against blood clots by making platelets less sticky. Any alcohol does this, whether it's in wine, beer or spirits, but some drinks benefit the body in other ways, too. Red wine and beer contain flavonoids, which act as antioxidants, but you'd get a far better dose from a plate of fresh vegetables.

Yet the euphoria of highlighting alcohol's good points has also meant that studies exposing groups which may not benefit, such as pregnant women and nursing mothers, have sometimes been overlooked. Some studies have indicated that drinking alcohol increases a woman's risk of developing breast cancer. The Har-

vard School of Public Health concluded recently that two drinks a day can raise a woman's risk of contracting the disease by as much as a quarter.

Often the problem with alcohol lies more in the way we drink rather than the amount we knock back, according to a report in this month's *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*. "In southern European countries the whole culture is of families drinking moderately while the culture of men drinking on their own in a pub in, say, northern England or Ireland leads to situations where people may drink heavily and irregularly," says Professor Martin McKee who, with Annie Britton, at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, published the findings. "It's much more difficult to get him drunk if you've got a wife and family with you."

The study compares drinking patterns in different countries to discover why some are more fatal than others. The Russians, for instance, are far more likely to die of an alcohol-related death than their French counterparts, even if those in both countries were drinking the same quantity of alcohol in a week. This is because Russians tend to binge on vodka while the French usually consume red wine, drinking a little each day with an evening meal.

The research also shows that the day after a binge, heart-beat patterns can be dangerously irregular and the heart is more likely to be damaged by a high concentration of alcohol in the blood. In addition, binge drinking was found to raise levels of HDLS, lipids associated with heart attacks.

A Finnish study published in the *British Medical Journal* in October last year supports Professor



In France, where men tend to drink a little red wine with a meal, people are far less likely to die of alcohol-related causes

Barry Smith

McKee's work. It discovered that men who binge on beer (defined as six or more bottles in a session) have a much higher risk of early death, regardless of their total average consumption. Other risks are also increased, including poisoning, injuries, violence and suicide.

The problem of the unexpected death of healthy people caused by binge drinking is unlikely to be improved as long as we continue to receive mixed "facts" about alcohol. Professor McKee believes that policymakers seeking to promote "sensible drinking" need to present a clear message that recognises the benefits but also the dangers.

"Now, people either say doctors can't make up their minds about alcohol, or they think they're just drinking a little amount when of course they are drinking more," says Professor McKee. "People's recollections of what they have drunk is often inaccurate. They forget what they've drunk, they often think it is less than it really is."

One explanation of why people find it hard to pin down their drinking habits is the complicated process involved in working it out. The strength of wine varies from under 9 to over 13 per cent for example, and a pub wine glass varies greatly from a goblet given by the host of a

generous dinner party. Ciders also vary greatly in strength, beers even more. And, needless to say, when talking about recommended units for a man or a woman, people vary greatly in size and tolerance also.

The Health Education Authority released research last year to illustrate the problems of one-off binges. These include accidents and injuries, blackouts and memory loss, alcohol poisoning, sickness and hangovers, crime and violence and doing something you later regret, such as having unprotected sex.

The research found that 16- to 24-year-olds are the most likely group to binge drink, but also that risky

drink behaviour is common among all adult drinkers. Six out of ten of the men taking part in the survey said they'd drunk the equivalent of at least four pints of beer in one session (over eight units) in the last year while more than a third of women had drunk the equivalent of at least three pints (six units), many at least once a week.

It is worth remembering the following tips: that drinking with food slows alcohol absorption time; that a small glass of wine of 9 per cent alcohol by volume constitutes one unit of alcohol - but many wines are stronger; and that a healthy liver takes an hour to break down a unit of alcohol, so after

a binge you may be over the legal drink drive limit the next morning.

According to Alcohol Concern, the money spent on educating and warning the public about alcohol is tiny compared to that spent on the spread of information about Aids, drugs and cigarettes. Considering that alcohol is such a deadly drug, can we really afford to spend so little?

Alcohol concern (0171 928 777) can refer people to local agencies; local Alcoholics Anonymous helpline is listed in the telephone directory; Drinkline (from 1 Oct): 0500 801802

Home is where the heart is; travel makes you sick

Homesickness is not a trivial complaint. It can lead to serious psychological and physical illness. By Roger Dobson

WHEN BEN, now 33, was packed off to boarding school at the age of 12, he suffered from chronic homesickness. "I can still remember my first night there. I felt physically sick with nerves because it all seemed so strange." Like many boys, he learnt to conceal his feelings. "My parents would send me letters every day and I couldn't even open them. It would upset me too much. I wanted to block out any memory of them. Then I'd get really bad stomach cramps. The matron told me it was a physical reaction to missing my parents."

For many people, homesickness results in severe anxiety, depression and other psychological problems, which can in turn trigger stress-related physical illnesses.

This week, as thousands of students prepare to leave home, perhaps for the first time, research shows that some people may be predisposed to homesickness and that common personality traits and disorders are found among sufferers.

Far from being a trifling and transient feature of childhood, homesickness in its more serious forms is now being recognised as a clinical condition that can be lifelong, requiring treatment with either counselling or antidepressants. For some people, the psychological and physical effects of moving away from home can be as great as if a relative or close friend had died.

As a result of greater mobility at

work, and more young people going into education away from home, increasing numbers of people are suffering from homesickness - now defined as a depression-like reaction to leaving a familiar environment.

Just how many people suffer from homesickness is not clear; surveys of first-year university students have estimated the prevalence as between 19 and 96 per cent. Figures for more serious forms of homesickness, which are usually more precise because therapy may be needed, show that 7 to 10 per cent of the population are affected.

"Extroverts and people with an openness to novel experiences generally will be less susceptible to homesickness. Socially inadequate people will experience more difficulties during adaptation to new environments because of their reluctance to seek social support," says Dr Elizabeth Eurelings-Bontekoe, who has investigated personality disorders in the homesick. She says that traits associated with homesickness include a high level of dependency with strong emotional ties to parents, and a low level of dominance. Sufferers also typically have low self-esteem, are under-assertive and may be neurotic. They tend to suffer from anxiety, and may be obsessive and compulsive.

She and colleagues at the University of Leiden, who report in the *British Journal of Psychology* the re-



Anxiety states can often be traced back to homesickness in childhood

Hulton

sults of their interviews with a number of homesick women, say that other factors may also play a part.

They found, for instance, that nearly 40 per cent of the women had experienced the sudden death of a parent or sibling during their childhood, and that more than half had been to boarding school. "These

women felt they had been sent away because they were not loved or wanted by their parents," says Dr Eurelings-Bontekoe.

Dr Tony Muntou, psychologist at the Thomas Coram Research Centre in London, estimates that 60 to 70 per cent of university students get homesick with varying intensity

during their first year. "People can react to a move as if a close friend or relative had died, and given that moving involves a separation from familiar surroundings, it is perhaps not surprising that for some people the effects can be similar to bereavement or grieving. It can lead to quite serious emotional and phys-

ical disorders developing.

"An important factor, of course, is the familiarity of home. We feel most comfortable with objects, places and people with whom we are most familiar, and that's something that hasn't escaped the attention of the international hotel chains. A room in a Holiday Inn looks very much the same whether it's in London, Las Vegas or Beirut."

It is not only young people making the break for the first time who suffer homesickness. Some people suffer throughout their lives with chronic and acute problems.

Dr Muntou, who has carried out research among company movers, says that increasing numbers of corporate families move regularly as they climb the business ladder.

"Someone in banking, for example, may expect to make 15 or so moves, and that can be stressful. We found that it is too simple to divide those who were homesick and those who were not, into introverts and extroverts. Extroverts may find it easier to meet new people when they move, but then introverts are self-contained and don't rely on social networks," he says.

His coping strategies for homesickness centre on research that shows that preparing for the move can avoid later problems.

"Make regular trips to the new place before you go, get information about local organisations and groups, get hold of street maps, take

familiar objects with you, like that old battered kettle, and talk about the move in the family. Keep busy, and not too many visits home, at least to begin with, are helpful. Don't put off thinking about the move until the last minute, because people who do that suffer the most," he says.

Other research has shown that the Internet is being increasingly used as a way of tackling homesickness. More than 4,000 Web pages offer advice on homesickness; government agencies in Malaysia and the Lebanon have Web pages specially designed to help students abroad. Homesick Canadian expats can sign on to their page and hear the national anthem played as the words scroll by.

For most people, coping strategies like these will help to ease the transition, but one in ten will need some kind of treatment with antidepressants or counselling, or both.

For others, one of the obstacles to treating homesickness is that although the symptoms are universal, the causes are diverse and complex, and may mask other problems. Dr Eurelings-Bontekoe found, for instance, that one of the women she interviewed was homesick every time she went on holiday. But this was not a result of childhood experiences or sinister personality problems; it was simply that she disliked having to spend every minute of the day with her husband, and preferred to be at home.

A house full of healthy options

Should you try Reiki, or Shiatsu, or stick to antibiotics? A new, integrated clinic helps you decide. By Clare Garner

Doctor Valerie Dias, a general practitioner, used to be sceptical about complementary medicine. It was only when she kept hearing from her patients about how alternative treatments had worked wonders where she had failed, that she yielded.

Over the years she has "metamorphosed" into a doctor who believes wholeheartedly in the merits of both orthodox and non-orthodox medicine – and most important, the fusion of the two. Her approach may be unusual, one for which she is sometimes ridiculed by fellow doctors, but it is not unique. Naturally, she has gravitated towards like-minded GPs and a group of them have recently joined forces to create a new institution.

Two previously antagonistic world views have been joined seamlessly together at the Integrated Medical Centre (IMC), which has just opened in central London. Conventional medicine, informed as it is by western scientific thought, has never before been found to be smuggled up so closely to holistic medicine, rooted as it is in a pre-scientific paradigm.

The IMC, housed in a homely four-storey building just behind Harley Street, is jam-packed with patients who have drawn a blank with their GPs. Some of them may have toyed with the idea of complementary medicine in the past, but felt baffled by the range of alternatives.

"What's unique about the IMC is that the patient doesn't need to go roaming around thinking 'Is this the right person? Will this help? Will that help? Should I try homeopathy? How about Ayurvedic healing or Shiatsu massage or hypnotherapy? What is Reiki? Which one is going to help my condition?'" said Dr Dias. "You don't have to worry about which door to knock on when you come here, but also if you come in for a headache and it is a brain tumour we would pick that up. Equally, if you clearly have a full-blown bacterial infection and a mega dose of antibiotics is what's needed, we'll tell you. Because we are doctors, we don't have the leeway not to give you those antibiotics." The joy, as far as the doctors at IMC are concerned, is



Dr Ali's patients claim he has healing hands. 'This is the future of medicine,' he says.

Andrew Buurman

the ability to cross-refer in-house. There are a total of 21 staff, half of whom are highly qualified and experienced medical doctors who are also experts in complementary and traditional medicine. The other half are hand-picked specialists in their field, be that naturopathy, cranial osteopathy, traditional Chinese medicine or sports injury management, who are supervised by the medical doctors.

"There are so many conditions for which in medicine we'd say,

'you've got to live with it,'" said Dr Dias. "But because we've got so many strings to our bow, we're not so cornered."

The IMC is the brainchild of Dr Mosaraf Ali, a 45-year-old Indian doctor who arrived in Britain seven years ago and has since been adopted as a health guru by the Prince of Wales. He is nicknamed Rasputin in St James's Palace, a light-hearted reference to his having trained in Russia. On the recommendation of Prince Charles, Dr Ali has seen

other members of the British Royal Family, including the Duchess of Kent, whom he has treated for her ME. In May 1991, Dr Ali joined the Hale Clinic, the alternative medicine centre in Regent's Park, where he earned a reputation for giving "the best massage in London". He makes his diagnosis by using the ancient method of looking at the tongue, pulse, ears and eyes. Patients claim he has "healing hands". Indeed, Dr Ali hates seeing patients reduced to pathologies, ad-

vocating an holistic approach for "people, not illnesses".

"The concept is ancient, very ancient," he said with a calmness that comes with conviction. "Most diseases are multi-factorial, unless it was a trauma. If the weather is bad, you don't say 'oh, it's El Niño'. Similarly, whether it's chronic fatigue or a pain in the knee joint, there are various factors which cause it."

Dr Ali's approach certainly did the trick for Susan. She first went to him six months ago, after losing pa-

tience with her GP who spent more time reading his computer screen than looking at her face. She was depressed, overweight, and not sleeping. Her marriage had ended and she had a difficult legal battle to fight in America. A car accident had left her in constant pain, unable even to lift her arm, and she was finding work "exhausting and vile".

"The first thing I remember about Dr Ali is that when I said, 'I'm terribly depressed,' he said, 'I can see that'. I was glad he could

see. It is visible in people. He told me that unless I ate what he told me to eat and was going to look after myself, I needn't come back for treatment."

Dr Ali told her to cut out caffeine, cheese, vinegar and leavened bread. He "did some treatment", which amounted to a couple of massages to improve the blood flow to the head, and referred her to the centre's yoga teacher, whom she saw once a month. And that, apparently, was the sum of it.

Now Susan is buoyant, free of pain, and has lost more than two stone without trying.

Dr Ali has a 20 per cent rule. He explained: "In any healing, you help the person to get 20 per cent better. The moment they feel 20 per cent better, their whole body wants to get 100 per cent better. Suddenly some unusual mechanisms get switched on and the body begins to heal itself... what we are trying to do is transform a person."

Dr Ali has vast experience of integrating various forms of medicine and claims to know which therapy will work in a particular instance. "Say, for example, it's a problem of rheumatoid arthritis, which is a chronic problem, aromatherapy may or may not help, homeopathy may or may not work, but Ayurvedic treatment is known to give better results. We know that eczema responds to diet and herbs, we know that strokes can be treated with acupuncture."

A half-hour consultation with Dr Ali costs between £40 and £50, further appointments, plus sessions with recommended therapists, are charged at the same rate. Private insurance companies are increasingly recognising alternative treatments, but Dr Ali would like to see services such as his available on the NHS. "Insurance companies find us very lucrative because we offer so much for so little. Patient participation cuts the cost so much."

The mood at the IMC is one of confident expectation. "This is the future of medicine," said Dr Ali. "This is how it's going to be. There's no going back."

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The NHS is getting complementary

Many GPs are prescribing osteopathy and other 'alternative' remedies. By Lynn Eaton

THE RECENT news that Britain now boasts more alternative therapists than conventional GPs was greeted, as you may expect, with more than a little cynicism from conventional doctors. "My main concern is the dogma surrounding this type of medicine," said Eric Rose, a GP and member of the BMA's GPs Committee. "You see some ridiculous claims – that if you eat six tins of stewed rhubarb you will get better."

A survey carried out by Exeter University's Centre for Complementary Health Studies found that the general public has a different view. There at least 40,000 complementary therapists in the UK, compared to 36,200 family doctors, and an estimated 3 million-plus patients a year visit them. In this light, are we, like Cherie Booth, turning into a nation who would rather trust a "healing" pendant than a qualified NHS doctor?

Although it may be a long time before crystal healing is available on the NHS, massage, osteopathy, homeopathy and acupuncture already are – depending on where you

live. For conditions such as asthma, skin complaints, back pain and digestive disorders, complementary medicine ("alternative") is now considered too antagonistic a word to be able to offer hope when all else has failed. Even the Health Secretary, Frank Dobson, at a complementary health conference in May, said: "I believe that what works is what counts and what counts is what works. With so many threats to our health, we can't afford to ignore anything that works and is safe."

Yet conventional doctors' concern is understandable. Lack of research into the effectiveness of treatment, poor information about the standard of training within each specialty and a lack of proper regulation are all valid criticisms.

Slowly though, scepticism is fading as many doctors acknowledge the possibilities of complementary techniques working alongside orthodox medicine. A recent survey by Sheffield University found that as many as 40 per cent of GP practices in England now provide access to complementary treatment for NHS patients. "In the last 10 years or so we have seen a change in attitude," says Dr Sossie Kassab, a GP working with the Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital. "More and more GPs are interested. I find it increasingly useful if I come across something I can't prescribe for, such as someone with arthritis who has contra-indications to using anti-inflammatory drugs."

The Foundation for Integrated

Medicine, supported by the Prince of Wales, is funding more research into the effectiveness of various therapies in an attempt to encourage their use alongside conventional medicine. "The NHS is relatively cautious," said a spokeswoman. "After all, it is spending taxpayers' money."

So your chances of being able to get osteopathy, acupuncture or aromatherapy through the NHS depend entirely on whether your GP's practice has taken a particular interest in that area. Some health authorities will pay for you to be referred elsewhere for treatment, but many have refused, arguing that there is no proof that complementary medicine is effective.

Marylebone Health Centre in

London, for example, pioneered on-site massage, osteopathy, homeopathy and acupuncture clinics, an idea that has been developed in other surgeries as well. Elsewhere, Leicester has an international aromatherapy school. All over the country, nurses, midwives and physiotherapists who have trained in massage or acupuncture are incorporating these therapies into their work. Often cancer patients are offered complementary treatments, such as reflexology and aromatherapy, in addition to radio- or chemotherapy.

"We are not going to cure them of their cancer," explains Lucy Bell, who leads the complementary therapy team at Hammersmith

Hospital NHS Trust. "The reason we do it is for relaxation and support. We help them deal with the stress of having a life-threatening illness."

Four years ago, Lewisham Hospital in south London led the way in integrating complementary therapies within the NHS. It opened an outpatient clinic that offered acupuncture, homeopathy and osteopathy free to patients who had been referred by local GPs. It was extremely popular, seeing 1,500 patients in three years.

"We presented the health authority with some good outcome evidence," says Janet Richardson, manager of the research and evaluation unit, "but they argued that wasn't sufficient. The health authority had a £19m deficit and were

making cutbacks all over the place."

It is hard to defend homeopathy when your patients need hip replacements. The centre was forced to close on 27 March 1997.

"There are still quite a few GPs who have complementary therapists working with them," says Ms Richardson. "Bad the decision been made this year about the clinic's future, I think the money might have been there."

British Acupuncture Council: 0181-964 0222. Society of Teachers of the Alexander Technique: 0171-351 0828. Guild of Complementary Practitioners (for Aromatherapists): 0118 9375757. British Chiropractic Association: 0118 950 5950. National Federation of Spiritual Healers: 01932 783164. National Institute of Medical Herbalists: 01382 426022. Society of Homeopaths: 01604 621400. London and Counties Society of Physiologists (for Massage): 01853 408443. General Osteopathic Council: 0171-799 2442. Association of Reflexologists: 01903 212345. Shiatsu Society: 01733 753341

Even academic high achievers can feel like failures

For the next three weeks this column will examine the effects of an increasingly exam-obsessed education system on the emotional development of children.

THE GCSE and A-level results are in, the tears shed and the screams of triumph screamed. With the degree results also finalised, it means there is not a single 16-21 year old in Britain who does not now know where they are ranked in relation to their peers, everyone put in their proper place. What no one seems to be asking is how this affects the emotional well-being of these children. The majority will leave the education system feeling like failures, and perhaps surprisingly, the damage is most acute at the top end of the system.

Consider the case of Frank (not his real name). Tall, well built and every inch the perfect school-boy at his public school, he was head of everything. Just as some of his contemporaries attracted punishment for smoking, he attracted responsibility. A scholarship to Oxbridge and a cricketing Blue in his first year followed.

On the first morning of his second-year university exams, he set off from the house he shared with friends. When he had not returned at 2 am they became worried. He appeared 48 hours later with little memory of the intervening time. Forced to drop back a year, 12 months later he set off again to attempt the fence of these exams which, to a man of his calibre, should have been like a row of matchboxes. But exactly the same happened as before. This time he took a year out before finally graduating with a Third Class degree.

During his year out he had travelled and on graduation he took off again, ending up in a southern European city. He is still there today, 10 years later, working as a waiter to support a regime of remarkable sexual promiscuity. Aged 35, he truly does seek a new sexual conquest every single day despite being recently married and just as he excelled at school, now he excels in promiscuous sex.

His obsession with high achievement consumed his self and it was mercilessly exploited

by his school. He had learnt to define himself so utterly through comparing his performance to others that he had completely lost sight of any purpose it might serve for him. When he left the little society that was his school and had choices, he quickly discovered there was no "him" to make them. Only by escaping to a foreign land where he had no history could he begin the process of finding out what he wanted. He languishes in a repetitive, compulsive loop of pointless achievement, with sex merely having replaced academia and sport as the challenge.

Frank's sad story cannot be dismissed by suggesting he was suffering from a mental illness or that his hard-driving parents are an exception. Numerous studies show that he is not alone.

One study related the average ability level in different schools with self-esteem. Esteem was lower in schools with higher ability pupils: if you are surrounded by very able people, it tends to lower your self-valuation. Another study found that achievers in top

OLIVER JAMES

BRITAIN ON THE COUCH



With the results out, children now know where they are ranked. What no one asks is how school ranking affects emotional well-being

American universities have lower career aspirations and self-regard than achievers from less exalted universities.

This makes sense when you consider the evolutionary purpose of depression. Originally, it was a way for subordinate members in a hierarchy to indicate to superiors that they posed no threat. By placing a low value on their worth, becoming withdrawn and inactive, they could signal to more powerful members that they accepted the status quo. The alternative was violent death.

The theory predicts that on the whole, subordinated members of society, like women and the poor, would suffer more depression than superior ones – as they do. But under some conditions, even the most successful members of society can also become depressed.

John Price, a key theorist, wrote: "Critics of [the] Rank theory [of depression] are fond of pointing out that not all people who are in subordinate positions, or who are low in social resources, suffer from

depression, while people in a high social position (such as a Head of State) may do so. What is critical is what people perceive their social status and power to be and what they themselves believe to be the critical level below which it must not be allowed to fall."

Academic high-flyers perceive themselves so negatively because they compare with others of their standard, losing sight of how well they are doing compared to the vast majority of the population. Their success only leads to further subordination because no sooner have they become one of the biggest fish in a pond, they are moved to a bigger one where they are tiddlers in a shoal of equally high achievers.

An in-depth study comparing 19 very able middle-class girls with 19 working-class ones and following them from ages 4 to 21, powerfully bears this out. Despite being exceptional achievers, all the middle-class girls, without exception, were considerably more anxious and stressed than the working-class girls.

Valerie Walkerdine, the researcher who did the study, explained why. "The majority of the middle-class girls went to schools where high performance was the norm and therefore high performance came to be regarded as average. A young woman who did well would not see herself as outstanding because achievement was what was expected of her. By contrast, a working-class girl who did well would be held up as a good example by friends and family, whereas the talents of middle-class achievers were largely unused."

This is the death that so many high achievers suffer today: death by social comparison. If we make our self-esteem contingent on external standards, we run a huge risk of feeling like failures because, even if we succeed in these terms, there will always be someone better than us.

The paperback edition of Oliver James' book, *Britain on the Couch – Why We're Unhappier Compared with 1950 Despite Being Richer*, is published on 6 September by Arrow (£7.99)



Jade Boyles was treading on dangerous ground earlier this month at Paignton beach and needed treatment for cuts from a razor fish, below Marc Hill/Apez

I do like to be beside the seaside. But it's a dangerous business, says Roger Dobson

Daredevil daytrippers

Cut by razor fish, stung by jellyfish, sickened by shellfish, nipped by crabs; holiday-makers have been finding that going to the seaside can be a traumatic time. As if the British weather wasn't enough to contend with, rain and wind or blistering sun, there are the added dangers of hidden viruses and bacteria in the water, toxic algae, contaminated waste, oil slicks, and floating sewage.

All unpleasant by-products of modern living that the Victorians were blissfully free from when they first started dipping their toes in the water. Paddling and taking the bracing air of the seaside was then accepted as being one of the healthiest things to do. But for many people now, the seaside can be a dangerous place and up to one third of the patients seen at coastal hospital casualty units are holidaymakers and day trippers.

For those who survive unscathed from a dip in the sea there are the stress-induced heart attacks and strokes to worry about. There are also accidents such as the occasional thumb or finger lost in assembling a deck chair, and there's the danger of food poisoning from mussels and other locally caught produce. "The stress of coming on holiday can turn a chronic illness into an acute one and a lot of people don't make an adequate assessment of their health before they come on holiday," says Dr Mark Sedgwick, accident and emergency consultant at Blackpool's Victoria Hospital.

He estimates that 10 to 15 per cent of casualty patients are visitors: "We see about 3,000 people a month in the low season, but that goes up to more than 8,000 in the high season, so we probably see about 8,000 or so visitors a year," he says.

Hospitals and doctors around Torbay had a more sudden and dramatic increase in their workload two weeks ago when around 800 people were cut by an invasion of razor fish. It was not quite Jaws, but thousands fled the beaches in Torbay, many of them with cuts inflicted on their feet by the eight-inch-long creatures, which lurk in the sand.

Sydney Lewis, aged 35, whose injuries were treated by ambulance paramedics, said: "I felt a sharp pain in my foot and I thought it was broken glass. But then I felt around and pulled out this shellfish." Jellyfish are more commonly encountered hazards in British waters than razors and can inflict nasty stings with their tails. Medical treatment is not always necessary, but general advice is that stings on the face should be looked at.

Sewage and E.coli organisms are a big problem in some coastal waters and have been associated with stomach upsets, diarrhoea and other health problems. There have also been reports that some viral infections can survive in contaminated waters, producing, it is claimed, ME-like symptoms.

But exactly what germs, bugs, bacteria and viruses lurk in the water is not fully known. Nor is it clear how toxic they can be, although even algae blooms, a phenomenon

that occurs mostly in summer weather conditions, can be hazardous to health.

New research in the United States has found a previously unknown illness caused by an algae known as pfiesteria, which was discovered in people around the beaches of Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. Doctors found that local people had begun to experience headaches, weight loss, skin irritation and even



memory problems after exposure to the algae

To try and find out what was happening, Professor Glen Morris launched a research project, reported in the current issue of *The Lancet*, which found that the more people were exposed to the contaminated water, the worse they got.

"Our conclusion is that people who are exposed to water in which these toxins are present are at risk of developing difficulties with learning and higher cognitive functions," says Professor Morris.

As well as the natural seaside dangers awaiting the unwary or

the unlucky, there are the man-made and sometimes self-inflicted problems, such as diving when there is not enough water.

Dr David Grundy, consultant in spinal injuries in Salisbury, has made a study of the injuries people suffer when they dive into water that is too shallow. Each year around 80 people are admitted to spinal injury units around the UK with tetraplegia as a result of such diving accidents.

"Most of the injuries occur when the head strikes the bottom of the sea or the pool, or hits a submerged rock. The victims were all young, with an average age of 24, and almost all of them were men," he says.

He believes that the number of people who suffer such accidents is under-reported because if help is not at hand they will drown and spinal injuries are often not picked up in post-mortems.

Deeper sea diving also has its health risks, and there has been an increase in the number of people getting the bends as more people take up scuba diving as a leisure activity.

"Some people choose their holidays to dive for the first time while others only dive while they are on holiday. Many are inexperienced and it is this group that are most at risk," said a spokesman for BUPA, which has opened Britain's newest hyperbaric unit at Hull.

Kate Horsley, 39, went for a day trip to the seaside and ended up spending most of the time in a hospital diving chamber. She and her husband Geoff had travelled to

Bridlington to scuba dive but Mrs Horsley was stung by a jellyfish and then suffered with the bends and had to be taken by helicopter to the new hyperbaric oxygen chamber at the Hull BUPA hospital.

"We had been diving for some time and I had been fine when we came up until I reached the shore. I started to get a numb and then tingling sensation in my feet and legs and it was quite unpleasant," Mrs Horsley says. "They took me to hospital and then I was flown to Hull, where I sat in a pressurised chamber with a doctor and nurse until the symptoms went away. It was quite a day."

Back at Blackpool, Dr Sedgwick says that the range of cases that he and his colleagues on the front line see is vast. "People tend to drink too much. They sometimes fall over, get hit by buses and trams or other people, and sometimes fall off the sea wall. We are very busy," he says.

"There are people who get increased angina when they lug their suitcases around or when they walk too far. We get cases of food poisoning, people who have been attacked, patients who have lost their medication, diabetics who experience problems, and we have the seaside unusual," Dr Sedgwick says. Unusual? "Very unusual," he says. "In the latest Bailey and Love surgical text book there is a photograph of an X-ray of someone's abdomen and inside their anatomy is a pepper pot and on the pepper pot you can clearly see the letters, 'Souvenir of Margate'."

Do you have a nasty case of SIG?

SO FAREWELL then TATT and GOK. Goodbye SIG. Those colourful abbreviations, familiar to generations of nurses and doctors, are under attack. Nurses who vent their feelings about patients by recording rude or abusive comments in their notes such as TATT ("Tired all the time") and GOK ("God only knows") risk being charged with serious professional misconduct, their regulatory body warned last week.

The UK Central Council for Nursing and Midwifery is to issue new guidelines on record-keeping to all 840,000 registered nurses in October.

Last week it said that the use of offensive or subjective remarks in patients' notes, often recorded in code, was unacceptable and could be dangerous. Clearly, patients who ask to see their notes – as they now can – and discover the acronym SIG ("Stupid ignorant git") are not going to feel well-disposed towards their carers. As Phil Hammond, the doctor-comedian and former *Independent* columnist observed in these pages: "The use of acronyms is a reflection of the anti-holistic tendency some doctors have to reduce people to labels for ease of intellectual or emotional processing. Or perhaps it's just for a laugh. Either way they don't sound nearly as funny when they are read out in court."

Fair point, doc. But as we know, black humour is used across the world to cope with death and suffering. Doctors, soldiers, aid workers, reporters all resort to in-jokes and barbed references to keep their emotional distance from events that might otherwise overwhelm them. If jokes are banned, the consequences could be worse.

The UKCC will have none of it. Sue Smallman, the council's paediatric nursing officer, said she had seen FLK ("Funny looking kid") and GOK (see above) in patients' notes. "They might be funny to you but they are not very professional," she told a nurses meeting in Birmingham.

The council maintains that even where acronyms are not derogatory they can be confusing. It cites the example of NBM, which is understood by some nurses as "nil by mouth" and by others as "no bowel movement" conjuring the image of a patient being wheeled to theatre with All Bran backed up to his throat. A spokesman said they could see the funny side but that was obviously potentially dangerous.

To illustrate their determination to root out ill manners and abuse, the council last week struck off a nurse who had written "Pain in the neck" and, later, "Pain in the bum" in a patient's notes. Beverley Anne Carey, acting manager of a residential care home in Luton, had not even bothered to use the acronyms PIN and PIB to disguise her

HEALTH CHECK

JEREMY LAURANCE



Black humour is used to cope with suffering. If jokes are banned, the consequences could be worse

views. She was found guilty on seven charges including failing to keep patients clean and failing to call out a GP when a patient was in pain. To assist readers who may be puzzled by acronyms they have come across in their medical notes here is a list, compiled with the help of the good Dr Hammond. It is unlikely to be complete.

TATT: Tired all the time, used for heartsink patients – those who make their doctors' hearts sink – who make repeated visits to the surgery but have undefined symptoms

TEETH: Tried everything else, try homeopathy – see above

PAFO: Fissed and fell over – to account for unexplained abrasions

FLK: Funny looking kid – where the diagnosis remains baffling

GOK: God only knows – ditto

OAF: Over-anxious parent – not to be confused with...

SIG... Stropky ignorant git – nor with...

GRIES: Guardian reader in ethnic skirt

TFBUNDY: Totally f***** but unfortunately not dead yet – for those with a tenacious grip on life

NFA/B/C: Normal for Andover, Bridgewater, Carmarthen, etc – to refer to cerebrally challenged patients according to surgery location

HP: Handbag positive – to denote a patient, usually an elderly woman, lying in her hospital bed clutching her handbag, a sure sign that she is confused and disoriented

PP: Pumpkin positive – when you shine a pen torch into the patient's mouth, the brain is so small that his whole head lights up.

Don't let fear drive mothers to the scalpel

Are women who opt for Caesarean section labouring under a delusion? By Joanna Moorhead

WHEN LUCY Turner found herself pregnant with her first child three years ago her thoughts, like those of most mothers-to-be, were turned to the birth itself. As a midwife, Turner knew more than most about what lay ahead. Which is why, she says, she had no hesitation in going to see her obstetrician at the earliest opportunity to request an elective Caesarean.

"There was no medical reason why I was putting myself forward for a Caesarean – all I knew was, I definitely didn't want to go through labour," says Turner, who is now 36. "I

was worried about the pain. I was concerned about the possible damage to my pelvic floor. I was concerned about the chance of an instrumental delivery. A Caesarean seemed the perfect answer." Some obstetricians would have tried to talk a woman out of such a decision, but Turner's didn't – and her daughter, Annabelle, was duly delivered by section.

The decision was, she says, absolutely right for her – and when Annabelle's brother Jack came along four months ago, Lucy had no reservations at all in opting once more for a surgical delivery. "To be honest, I can't think why anyone wants to do it any other way," she explains. "You know in advance when it's going to happen, it was a lovely experience for both me and my husband, and pain relief after the delivery was very good indeed. It didn't even mean an over-long hospital stay – I was in on a Monday and

back home by Wednesday.

"Worries have been raised about whether you bond with your child so well if you have a section, but that's absolute codswallop. In fact, if you have to go through a long-drawn-out labour I think that's more likely to interrupt bonding than a planned Caesarean."

Turner's choice is an unusual one – particularly for a midwife – but, according to a recent report in the *British Medical Journal*, it's one that more women should be given the chance to make. That's the view of Sara Paterson-Brown, consultant obstetrician at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital in London – and Turner agrees wholeheartedly. "After all, women have choices about prenatal diagnosis and about whether to go for a home or hospital delivery," she says. "Why shouldn't they have the chance to opt for a surgical delivery as well?"

Over recent years the number of Caesarean sections in Britain, as in the United States, has been rising steeply; one in six deliveries is now carried out this way. The rise has been linked to an increasing tendency on the part of doctors to jump in with the scalpel rather than wait to see the course a labour takes – if anything indicates a baby is in distress, a Caesarean is believed by many obstetricians to be the quickest and safest way of ensuring the baby's safety.

But while the majority of sections are so-called "emergencies", opted for after labour has already started and when a vaginal delivery seems dangerous or impossible, a proportion are "electives", opted for before the event by the parents in consultation with their doctor. It's not known exactly how many Caesareans in Britain are electives, although most of them are decided on be-

cause of some medical indication that labour may not progress normally – typically, because a previous delivery ended in an emergency section.

That's how it was for Julia Pollard, 36, of Farnham, Surrey, whose first son, George, was born by Caesarean. "It was a scary experience," she remembers. "George got stuck in the birth canal, and they decided they'd have to operate. One minute the delivery was calm and collected – the next the room was full of people ripping hags open and scrubbing up. I had panic attacks for some time afterwards."

"When I got pregnant again with Joe, who's now 18 months old, I was keen to avoid that kind of experience again. The doctor said I could have what they call a 'trial of labour', in which we could go ahead with a normal birth and see what happened, but I was terrified it would end the same way as with

George. So I opted for an elective section, so we at least knew what was going to happen and could plan ahead."

Pollard says she wouldn't have chosen a section without strong medical evidence that a vaginal delivery would be difficult. "Even though I knew what was going to happen with Joe, it was a scary experience. Given the choice, I'd have had a normal delivery – you're up and about so much more quickly, [after a Caesarean] you can't drive for six weeks afterwards. And the pain is bad – I could only just walk, with difficulty, five days after my sections."

Yvonne Williams, who runs the Caesarean Support Network, says most women who elect for a surgical delivery do so for reasons like Pollard's – she believes the number of women who would choose a section for convenience, or because of worries about damage

to their bodies from a vaginal delivery, are few and far between. "It's four times safer to have a normal delivery than a section, and the length of time of recovery is longer," she says. "The effects of the anaesthetic can drag on for some time, and I don't believe it should ever be a woman's first option. I think women who want to make this kind of choice are often motivated by fear, which to me seems a shame."

And electing for a section to avoid pelvic damage doesn't always pay off, according to Jane Newman, an obstetric physiotherapist at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. "The most important thing as far as long-term damage is concerned is the management of the delivery, and the management of the patient afterwards," she says. "We see just as many complications attached to Caesarean deliveries as to vaginal ones – it doesn't

follow that you'll always avoid problems if you have surgery."

That doesn't, though, seem to be the prevailing information getting through to pregnant women. Tracey Johnston, an obstetrician at St Mary's Hospital in Manchester, says more and more women are now requesting a section for non-medical reasons. "It's a trend that's coming in from the US, where women are often offered a Caesarean to keep themselves 'honeymoon fresh'," she explains. "What's vital, though, is that obstetricians talk the whole thing through carefully with the woman concerned. Often there's an irrational fear that can be overcome through counselling, and she will go on to have a normal delivery and be perfectly happy with it."

MEN
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MEDIA

This has been the year of factual television, and Edinburgh's offerings reflect the trend. By Paul McCann

Real-life TV comes to the Festival

At first glance the programme for the Edinburgh Television Festival looks like an elaborate and over-long publicity stunt. Including a session on the media and its reaction to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales so close to the anniversary of the death itself was clearly too tempting for the organisers to resist.

Then there is Louise Woodward. Her insight into the televising of trials may be a bit biased, but, again, she will generate headlines on a slow August bank holiday.

The television festival has something of a tradition of such stunts. The James McTaggart Lecture kicks the whole thing off and this year's speaker, Peter Bazalgette, knows what he has to do. "It doesn't matter [what you say] so long as you come up with the one line that gets

Never let it be said that TV understands satire: the session about fly-on-the-wall filming is being filmed by a fly-on-the-wall crew

quoted in all the broadsheets on the Saturday morning. As in John Birt is a Dalek (Dennis Potter); or 'British television is run by middle-class, middle-aged men in suits' (Janet Street Porter). Never mind the argument - get the catch-phrase."

But the sessions on Diana and on the notorious nanny may have a greater resonance. They illustrate the degree to which the festival organisers this year see their role as rehashing the great media issues of the year. And as so many news stories tend to have a media angle, non-media stories can also be re-covered by the festival.

The Diana and Woodward sessions illustrate the other great trend of the television year: the triumph of the real world in peak time.

"It's been the year of factual programming," says Ruth Pitt, head of documentaries at Granada and chair of the festival, in her programme introduction. "Those of us who make documentaries and feature films still can't believe that after years in the scheduling wilderness, we've finally found ourselves being voted runners-up to Coronation



Despite doubts being cast over the veracity of some 'docu soaps', programmes such as *Lakesiders*, a shopping-centre documentary, have stormed the schedules

Street and EastEnders in the popularity stakes."

Last week's appointment of Tim Gardam as programming director of Channel 4 underlines just how big a year it has been for factual television. Gardam developed Channel 5's news, and before that worked on *Newsnight* and *Panorama*.

He joins Steve Hewlett, incoming director of programmes at Carlton, as an executive who has made it to the top through the factual route.

Despite the television events of Diana and the nanny the big factual story of the year was the rise of the so-called soap-doc. And soap-docs are well represented at Edinburgh.

The Friday Night Armistice satirical sketch show lampooned the rise of the soap-doc last year by showing a supposed fly-on-the-wall documentary about a production company making a fly-on-the-wall. Well, never let it be said that the television industry understands satire. One of the first sessions of the

weekend will be devoted to the craft of making a fly-on-the-wall, while the session itself is being filmed by the festival's own fly-on-the-wall - a crew will follow delegates around for the whole weekend, or until it disappears up its own fundament, whichever comes first.

In a separate seminar delegates

can watch a debate about the need for honesty in factual programming. The session is an obvious reaction to the scandal of the Carlton documentary *The Connection*, which was proved to be a fake, and to the numerous innuendoes about the reality of other popular soap-

Males, Driving School and Clangers. Hewlett will speak - presumably to begin the task of restoring Carlton's credibility.

Then there is another seminar in which the "real people" who star in soap-docs discuss how the experience has affected their lives.

The other big story of the year - the changes to television news - is also getting an airing, though no one should expect Richard Sambrook, the BBC's head of newsgathering, to tell us what the programme strategy review will contain. Nor is another participant, Steve Anderson, the ITV head of factual, likely to come clean about where *News at Ten* will end up next year.

The number of sessions devoted to news stories this year raises the question of what the festival is for. It could be accused of being reactive, providing a forum to discuss last year rather than to look forward.

The Diana and Woodward sessions illustrate the other great trend of the television year: the triumph of the real world in peak time

To be fair, there are sessions on future developments, such as Manchester United Television and the digital revolution. But with sessions titles like "TV is Boring", "How to Cope with Life in TV" and "TV's Nickers" - a session on idea stealing - on top of the reheated scandals of the year, it is difficult to escape the notion that there is a kind of malaise affecting the industry.

Such malaise is supposed to rest on the insecurity people feel in their jobs, the rubbishing of standards and worries about digital. In fact, since last year's festival British TV has produced the dramas *Holding On* by Tony Marchant, and *Tom Jones: the documentaries* *The Nazis: A Warning From History* and Peter Taylor's *Provos*. British comedy gave us *I'm Alan Partridge* and *Goodness Gracious Me*. It is impossible to believe these could have been produced anywhere else.

There may be plenty to worry about for the future of British television and certainly little of that future is being discussed at Edinburgh. But on the evidence of the past year, it is too early to talk of a malaise.

ANALYSIS JANE ROBINS

How you will choose your digital TV

RUBY WAX and Jeremy Irons will do their bit. The BBC will also rope in Stephen Fry, Michael Palin and Harry Enfield. At BSkyB and OnDigital, they will cough up £100m. All this effort is to be directed at persuading the British public that it can learn to love digital television.

Later this week, the Edinburgh International Television will be swamped by digital promotions. The Granada-Carlton joint venture, OnDigital, will want the punters to choose its terrestrial service. Cable and Wireless will want you to wait until next year before picking digital cable. BSkyB has the fanciest, slickest campaign of all, for satellite.

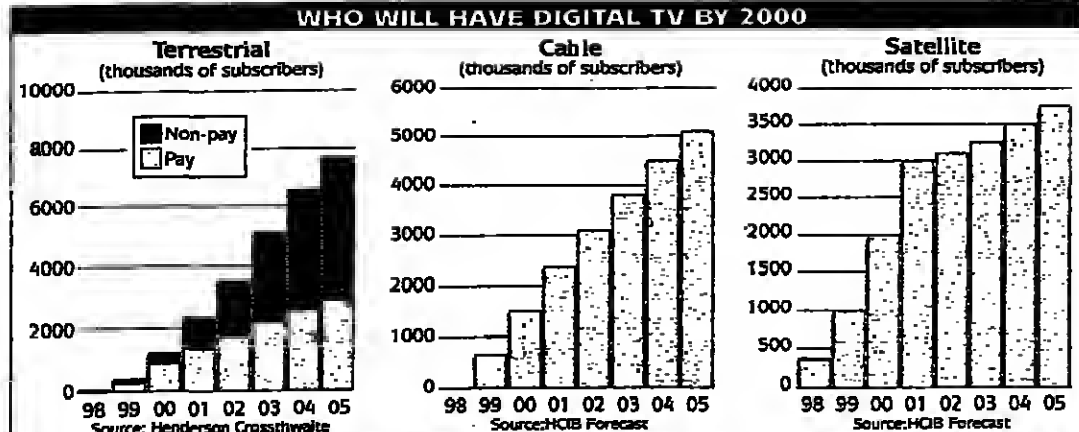
So how will consumers decide which option to take? There are so many channels, and the services overlap with each other so much, that the reader can be as baffled by information as by the lack of it.

So, I'm having a go at putting the consumers themselves into categories in the hope that you may recognise your "type" and be a little clearer on your way forward into the digital future.

The important thing is that this is not like Beta-max and VHS, or audio-cassettes and cassettes. Pick your digital provider now, and it will not be obsolete in five years' time.

You also need to know that digital television will, in the end, be compulsory - at some distant date, possibly 10 years away, the Government will simply switch off the old analogue service.

First on my list are dummies - people who do not possess a zapper to zip from channel to channel. You were the last person you know to



switch from black-and-white to colour, and you have no idea what digital television is except that you know you don't particularly want it.

Along with the televisually excluded, who do not have the technology for satellite or cable television, you are ideal customers for OnDigital. This will offer you all the free-to-air services, including BBC1, BBC2, ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5, as well as extra pay channels - 30 channels in total.

Drones do not need to go out and buy fancy equipment. When you replace your old television set in a few years' time, all the software you need will be built into the equipment.

Second are existing telly junkies. You most likely already have a satellite dish, and watch lots of sports and films. You are an avid consumer of American soaps, and spend most evenings in front of the box.

Telly junkies are keen to be the first in their street to boast that they have saturation football and golf, and

when they go down to Dixons or Currys, they will be dazzled by the services on offer from BSkyB. Sky's strategy is to pull in as many subscribers as fast as it can to its 200 channels.

This is why it is offering big subsidies to launch its service at £199, and a "value deal" for £26.99 a month. Sky's main objective is to get you hooked before digital cable gets off the ground in 1999. It will also hype the "interactivity" part of its service, which starts next year.

In the third band are true digital converts. You are probably a bit sniffy about Sky's satellite dishes, but do not mind expressing an interest in the Internet at parties. Or you are young and spend several hours a week online. You are vaguely aware of "convergence", and know that, in time, your television set will also act as an interactive computer.

However, you are not desperate to be first with the new technology and don't mind waiting to see how the market shapes up. You will

probably end up with digital cable. Cable and Wireless, the biggest operator in the business, says that it offers all the television channels that Sky and OnDigital currently have - with more, and quicker interactivity. Last week, it announced deals with Barclays, Littlewoods, British Airways and others, to develop online shopping services.

Digital converts should check the newspapers carefully, though. So far, the cable companies have failed to match Sky's aggressive marketing of its services. Unless they catch up fast, you may decide that Sky, after all, deserves your vote.

Henderson Crostwhite, a firm of City brokers, reckon that 46 per cent of the viewing public will make the switch by 2005 - and of those, 2.9 million households will choose OnDigital's terrestrial pay-channels, 2.7 million will opt for BSkyB's satellite channels, and 5.1 million will choose cable. A clear outright win for the digital converts.

THE WORD ON THE STREET

IN FRONT of a star-studded gathering of celebrities - well, Floella Benjamin, Bruce Grobbelaar, Robert Powell and others not in panto that day - *The Express* launched its millennium count-down clock last Wednesday: it was 500 days until the year 2000, apparently. As well as giving the paper the opportunity to punt strange facts from the last 1,000 years in each day's paper, this was also supposed to promote a scratch card game to run until the millennium in 16 months' time. Well, at least it would have done, if the clock hadn't stopped by the following morning.

THE DAILY Mail's royal correspondent Richard Kay should remember that the title does not confer royalty on the bolder. Arriving in Omagh on Prince Charles's plane last week, he was stuck so close to the royal party that when Prince Charles was on walkabout Mr Kay is reputed to have received a call on his mobile phone. It was the Buckingham Palace press office asking him to stand a bit further back from the Prince - on television he looked like part of the walkabout.

THE MIRROR Group has been going all out to prove what a dynamic, thrusting, businesslike place it is in the aftermath of the *Sporting Life* fiasco. David Montgomery even sent staff a widely leaked memo about the strength of Mirror Group's editors and the weaknesses of John Mulholland. Interesting, then,



that this efficient organisation's website is so laughable: it lists Bridget Rowe (above) as editor of the Sunday Mirror - the current editor is Colin Myler; it says *The People* is edited by Len Gould - er, no, it's Neil Wallis; at the helm of the *Daily Record* it lists Terry Quinn - wrong again, it's Martin Clarke. The site maintains that *Sporting Life*, which is not currently on sale, has a circulation of 67,000, and that Kelvin MacKenzie is managing director of Live TV. It seems that even the most modern and interactive of new technologies is unable to keep up with the Mirror Group's rapid turnover of editors.

AMERICAN JOURNALISM has lost another one. Just a couple of months after two established hacks in Washington and Boston were found out for making things up, the *Boston Globe* has dispensed with the services of the improbably named Mike Barnicle. No too-eager young beaver he, Barnicle has been on the *Globe*

for years and was reportedly paid \$250,000 a year. First, at the beginning of the month he was caught out stealing jokes from a comedian's book and lying about it. Then, last week, a column from 1995 that was to be reprinted in *Reader's Digest* was discovered by the *Digest* to be fake. The column told the emotional story of a black child and a white child who became friends when they were both in hospital with cancer. Frankly, even if it had been true, such a saccharine tale would have deserved punishment.

NICE to see that *The Guardian* is still sanguine about its spelling mistakes. From Friday's corrections column: "We spelt Morecambe, the town in Lancashire, wrong again on Page 2, G2, yesterday. We often do."

NO ONE grudges a newspaper editor the right to relax and take a break. At least, no one except executives at *The Times* who mean that Peter Stothard rarely graces the newspaper these days. After a sojourn with Rupert Murdoch at his Idaho gathering, the *Times* editor spent a week in New York looking at his paper's American distribution.

Next came a holiday, reportedly in Turkey and in Italy. Now he's bought a boat to play on when he's not at his home on the Thames. But not all the execs are grumbling about their leader's absence: one assistant editor has taken three months off.



Sally O'Sullivan says she 'stumbled into journalism', and she has been going at break-neck speed ever since

Neville Elder

Maven of the glossies finds a home of her own

After a successful career making millions for others, Sally O'Sullivan is setting up her own publishing house. She talked to Naomi Marks

Sally O'Sullivan, doyenne of the glossies, insists she is not a person who always thought she must run her own show. "I'd thought of myself as incredibly happy to make other people a great deal of money."

But, a year after her 50th birthday, and after two decades of successfully launching and editing women's magazines for other publishers, O'Sullivan finds herself in the hot seat, chief executive of her own publishing house, Cabal Communications.

With planned launches later this year and early next in the mass market, the niche consumer market and the contract title arena, she and her business partner, Andrew Sutcliffe, are hastily getting their own show on the road. O'Sullivan, when I meet her, is rushing around Cabal's new offices on London's unglamorous Euston Road at a rate that belies her skin-light pants and silhouettes.

Amid overseeing the activity of builders and systems people, she must ensure that the band of 14-to-18-year-old boys taking part in a focus group are catered for, perform for the fly-on-the-wall BBC TV crew recording the birth of the company, and fit in this interview. All before rushing off to lunch at the Ritz where she and Sutcliffe hope to poach yet another "name" to join the currently 20-strong Cabal team.

Yet nothing appears to shake her composure. Though there is something frustrating here. It is BT. "I can't tell you how extraordinarily difficult it is to get them to understand that there are circumstances in life when you have to move more quickly than eight weeks. It's really chal-

lenging to try to run a company without a phone system."

But O'Sullivan is used to making things happen. She graduated from Trinity College with vague notions of being a writer, interior designer or actress, and says she "stumbled into journalism", though she's been going at breakneck speed ever since.

A glorious career in the glossy magazine world has seen her edit *Options*, launch *Country Homes* and *Interiors* (as well as the ill-fated *Riva*), and edit *She*, *Harpers & Queen* and *Good Housekeeping* for the National Magazine Company, before joining IPC two-and-a-half years ago to oversee the revamp of *Ideal Home* and be editor-in-chief of six titles. In her last few months at IPC she managed to put together two more launches, *Beautiful Homes* and *Living Etc*.

She has also in the past five years taken on non-executive directorships of the Broadcasting Standards Commission, Anglian Water and London Transport, and has a seat on the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs.

She says she was terrified when first invited to join the ranks of the great and good, convinced she was "finally going to be humbled".

"But I got on these boards and find I have something I can contribute, alongside other people who clearly have never doubted that

they had contributions to make."

The work helped bridge a previously unidentified confidence gap and it has been a lesson she has carried into the day job. Having seen her talents mined so far only on the editorial side, she now believes she has talent aplenty to run a company.

Others believed it first, though. It

She deals with the builders, focus group, TV crew, systems people and this interview before lunch at the Ritz

was an old university friend now running a merchant bank who suggested that she put together a bid for IPC, when it became clear that Reed Elsevier wanted to divest itself of its consumer magazine division. She found backing for her bid but was beaten by the venture capitalists Civen for the purchase. However, she says she came out of the experience with no battle scars. Just flabbergasted she'd got so far.

Putting the strategic plans together also helped her see there was

another way to run a magazine company. Now she is determined to prove that editors are not just creative fluffy bunnies.

Tired of "layers and layers and layers of management", O'Sullivan and Sutcliffe, who is former editor-in-chief of IPC's music and sports titles, want to create an editorially driven company with a flat management structure. The plans have been received well enough to persuade five wealthy individuals to part with £2.2m to back them, and a host of respected magazine types have not only left secure positions to join the new venture, but have also taken out share options.

First from Cabal, in mid-October, are to be two big consumer monthlies. One is aimed at teenage boys – going under the working name of "Project FOG" (Fuck Off Grow-ups), thanks to the input of the 16-year-old son of O'Sullivan and her husband, the former *Times* and *Mirror* editor Charles Wilson. It will, says O'Sullivan, cover the familiar areas of sports, clothing, games, gadgets and hikes. And girls? "Absolutely!"

The other will be a mass-market home interest title, which aims to fill an empty niche by catering for ordinary women alienated by the "let's paint-the-living-room-red" brigade. November will see the launch of a specialist health title and another

consumer title, neither of which she will be drawn on. Then, if all goes well, next March there will be a big consumer launch in the women's sector and three new sports titles. In all, 12 magazines are planned in Cabal's first year, though "nothing is cast in stone".

And the story does not end with magazines. She adds: "What you don't tend to realise as a journalist is that you have a marketable talent and the talent is that you understand how to reach the consumer. I'd always thought it was just common sense. I fully expect this company to produce a clutch of high-quality magazines, but I also see us having a broader consulting role. We can put magazines together for a company, plus a television programme, evolve Internet sites and advise them on retail outlets."

However, O'Sullivan is alarmingly modest. Not only does she berate herself for the failure of *Riva* ("It was 10 years too early, and I say that with no pride at all; to be too early in a market-place is inexcusable"), but of Cabal's creating a "difficult" style of publishing house, she is quick to add: "It remains to be seen whether it is better."

Setting up Cabal has been, she says, like climbing a terraced slope: "Andrew and I pick each other up when we get stuck in the mud or when the next step seems too high. Now we're two-thirds of the way up the mountainside we can look back and see how far we've come."

O'Sullivan has the partner: the money and the ideas. She's in the building and the staff are coming on board. All she needs now are those telephones.

Altering our genetic cynicism

PITCH

A PR MAN AND AN ADVERTISING AGENT OUTLINE A CAMPAIGN TO CONVINCE US THAT OUR FEARS ABOUT GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD ARE UNFOUNDED

Nick Band, chief executive, PR firm, Band and Brown
Monsanto, in particular, made two big mistakes when they launched into the UK market. First, they didn't do their research properly into the psyche of the British consumer and the British media; if they had, they would have discovered that, as a nation, we're suspicious and cynical, and keen to support the small guy in any David and Goliath struggle – such as the farmer in Devon whose crops were destroyed. And they compounded that with their second mistake, which was to advertise.

That just reconfirmed the idea that this American giant had come over here to buy its way into the media, almost, and into our hearts and minds. And the way it was done, with an almost editorial message from Monsanto, rather than a creative ad, played right into the hands of the suspicious Brits. So what should they do, other than panic and go home?

I'd advise that they:

1) Pull the advertising, and wait at least a couple of years.
2) Start to change the language used in referring to the products. That would mean a ban on the words "genetic" and "modified" – perhaps in favour of "biotechnically enhanced".
And I'd move away from talking about "food", which is something that you eat, towards talking about "crops", something that is grown.

3) Talk about the concept of the new agricultural revolution, and try to generate as much excitement about that as there is about the Internet. Talk to journalists and generate editorial coverage. In 50 years, the world's population will double to 10 billion – and you've got to take the debate away from the genetically altered ear of corn and put it in a wider global context – and say: "The world is going to starve unless we do something about it now."

4) Say that genetic modification is nothing new. Gardeners have enjoyed the benefits of crossbreeding roses for decades. And after all, what is a mule? It's a cross between an ass and a horse. Introduce the idea that we've been doing it for years.

5) Start to identify and mobilise allies. Far too many people spend too much time defending themselves against lobby groups, rather than going out and finding people to support them. Perhaps less time wrapped up with Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth and consumer groups and more time talking to the Government, farmers (who are going to be the main beneficiaries of all this) and aid agencies such as Oxfam or Action Aid – people involved in feeding the planet. And

later, I would suggest making a large, visible donation.
6) Brief and convince teachers and doctors to spread the good word to their respective captive audiences. I'd try to negotiate with the editor of *Doctor* magazine to run an interview with, say, the chairman of Monsanto.

7) Sponsor a huge Agricultural Revolution exhibition in the centre of London, to get across the idea that genetically modified food is part of a revolution. Make it a fun event – a bit like the Millennium Project.

Barry Cook, managing director, DMB&B
I think this is a good opportunity for PR and advertising to work hand in hand. This is a mass audience issue now – and PR can take on some of the issues with pressure groups, politicians and the food trade.

A real concern has built up, post-BSE, that nasty people are messing about with our food, tampering with God's natural law, increasing their profits at the expense of our children's health. And that's characterised by consumer suspicion and confusion.

Advertising needs to:
1) Communicate with the target audience who are going to be buying these products in supermarkets. It should be a high-profile campaign, so we would be talking television.

2) A company like Monsanto must turn people from being concerned, negative or indifferent into positive advocates. It needs to provide a knockout consumer punch, and move people from saying "I'm really worried about this" to saying "I think it's a good idea". Anything else is a waste of money. You need to provide two pieces of evidence for the consumer. One is that genetically modified food provides huge benefits – your bananas won't go brown as quickly, for example – and the second is that there is absolutely, categorically, no downside. If you can't provide this evidence, don't spend the money on advertising.

3) Dispassionately display the information in the context of what consumers come into contact with – the fruit and vegetables themselves, the stuff you buy and eat. I don't see it as a men-in-white-coats, "scientists have proven" kind of campaign, because the public reaction is usually not to believe that. It's about getting under the skin of consumers and finding out what their concerns are. This issue is about food and food quality, so advertising needs to come across as food advertising, not as biotechnology advertising. It needs to give you the same reassurance that a Sainsbury or Hovis campaign gives you.

SCOTT HUGHES

Beware all slacker ads: you may have been Tango'd

The vogue for idle thoughts has not always been accompanied by hard thinking. By Jenny Madden

JUST WHEN you thought that every angle had been used to flog anything from washing powder to personal equity plans, ad agencies perpetrate another case of cultural hijacking.

The latest victim of Zeitgeist plunder is the slacker mentality. The idea seems to have been appropriated from *The Idler* magazine, which espouses a relaxed lounge-lizard version of loafing.

Tango (known for its great ads, Strongbow (known for its rubbish ads) and Karrimor rucksacks (not known for any ads) have grasped the oen dandyish slackerism by its wide lapels. Tango's World Cup campaign reprised Coke's "Eat football, sleep football, drink Coca-Cola" with "Eat pies, sleep a lot and drink Tango". Strongbow has lifted its "live to loaf" line direct from the cover of *The Idler*, with Johnny Vaughan as its scampish new face. And Karrimor is encouraging people to phone in to work sick and go rambling instead.

Slackerism is a particularly bold new direction for Strongbow, which laboured under the misapprehension that cider is a product drunk by blue-collar workers, when, in reality, cider is drunk by two easily identifiable groups: underaged drinkers and impoverished students, who appreciate the fact that it gets you drunk quickly for not much money, a property that also appeals to winos.

While the latter are the sort of consumers who will continue to guzzle regardless of image, the former are far less loyal, and Strongbow's makers, H.P. Bulmer, have identified a disconcerting shift to alcopops, with a slump in profits of 26 per cent last year. They hope that Johnny Vaughan will instil some much needed street credibility.

Karrimor, whose "phone in sick" ads pander to those in all walks of life who regard taking regular extended holidays in Third World countries as a defining aspect of their personality, can also be argued

to have been inspired by a flick through the pages of *The Idler*. Each month the magazine carries a column by "Decadent Action", a Situationist group that espouses rigorous overspending on credit cards and organised "phone in sick" days as a way of destroying the capitalist system.

Of course this current rash of idling ads does not mark the first time that brands have tried to appropriate a form of slackerism; but, unfortunately, the results to date have been less than encouraging.

A reasonably spectacular flop was scored in 1994 by Coca-Cola with an attempt to tap into the already waning grunge scene. Coca-Cola's new product, called OK Soda, was launched in selected cities and aimed at Generation X deadbeats and slackers. Packaged in grey cans with pitifully nihilistic slogans on the side, such as "don't think there has to be a reason for everything", the product bombed, and the company

went back to what it knew best – flogging soft drink using gaudy upbeat ads full of grinning models.

Loafing is a touch different, however. It is grunge grown a little older and a little wiser. Loafing is more knowing, louche and upmarket, evoking the spirit of the insouciant fop rather than that of a terminally depressed teenager.

But are slacker ads really such a good idea? Linking your product's essence with laziness and self-indulgence does not often sit too happily with the public's aspirational idea of itself. Chocolate advertising, for instance, with its ads based around the idea that chocolate is something to treat yourself to as you laze around, is totally out of step with its market.

Unable to come to terms with the fact that chocolate is not a luxury item any more, confectioners insist on plugging away with the old "treat yourself, eat some choc" mentality that has been prevalent from the

days of the Milk Tray men. The confectionery industry shows an inability to grasp the fact that choc bars are munching down because they are a cheap, quick and easy way to grab calories. People eat chocolate because they feel that they are too busy to eat properly.

Kit-Kat was the best-selling chocolate bar in this country, and its advertising half grasped the idea that chocolate is eaten by people on the go, but it got the wrong end of the stick: "Have a break, have a Kit-Kat" still conjures up the idea of people lazing around and stuffing their faces with chocolate – "Don't have a break, grab a Kit-Kat" would have been a line far more in tune with how we perceive the eating of chocolate today.

While the current crop of loafing ads may verge on plagiarism, it does come across as more clued up and tongue-in-cheek. The ads acknowledge the fact that those lucky enough to have a job in this



Johnny Vaughan, Strongbow's loafer-in-chief

country work longer hours on average than almost anywhere else in the Western world, and, therefore, loafing about has become a seductive fantasy for many people.

This is what they should be tapping into – otherwise, if the ads are

to be taken at face value, they might find a fundamental problem in aiming products at an audience made up of people who are proud of the fact that they rarely get out of bed, and if they do, one doubts it is in order to jog to the supermarket.

JP 21/08/98

Yesterday's news? Eva Simpson looks at the US black press, while Rob Brown finds that peace in Ireland doesn't interest America

Faltering printing presses of black America

ARMED WITH their résumés, portfolios and plastic smiles, hundreds of young black journalists descended on Washington DC this month for the National Association of Black Journalists' annual conference. Impeccably turned out, they wait in line at the downtown Convention Centre to be seen by representatives from the largest news organisations in the country including *The New York Times*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *USA Today*, and *The Washington Post*. The companies will select the cream of young black talent into their organisations. Conspicuous by their absence, however, is the black American press. The irony of their absence at the largest gathering of black journalists in the world is lost to those who are hoping to cut their teeth in journalism in the mainstream press. Sadly, the absence is indicative of just how irrelevant the black press

papers is not as dire as that of the *Defender*, which has a daily circulation of around 20,000, problems are still serious. Declining advertising revenue, coupled with falling circulation, means that most papers are run on a shoestring budget. Consequently they employ very few staff and use antiquated equipment – the newspapers are of low quality, poorly designed and devoid of any colour. At the 88-year-old *Amsterdam News*, arguably the country's leading black newspaper, journalists still input their copy on typewriters. Publisher Elinor Tatum said: "If you walk into our newsroom you step back to the Forties."

Many black newsrooms are staffed by ageing journalists, who, by clinging on to their jobs, are failing to make way for up-and-coming black journalists. At the *Amsterdam News*, which has a weekly circulation of 30,000, one journalist recently retired after almost 55 years on the job. The senior reporter has been there for nearly 30 years. "The age of our staff means it is harder for us to introduce technological change," complained Tatum.

The issue is compounded by the fact that young black journalists simply do not want to work on black newspapers. Stanley Nelson, who recently made the highly acclaimed documentary *Soldiers Without Swords*, a history of the black press in America, said: "At NABJ, young journalists were running around looking for work in the mainstream, but where was the black press? People want to work where they will get a high profile and make good money, but it's rare that they will be able to do it in the black press."

Many in the black press still hark back to the Thirties and Forties, when black newspapers were at their best. Black newspapers, notably the *Defender*, spurred the mass exodus of southern blacks to the industrial north and, during the Second World War, the *Pittsburgh Courier* spearheaded the Double V campaign which demanded that, as well as fighting Fascism abroad, black Americans fight it on their own soil. The black press was so powerful that FBI head J Edgar Hoover wanted to indict black publishers for sedition. At their height, black newspapers were read by millions of people each week.

Ironically, it was the civil rights movement that was to bring the power of the black press to an end, and in the Sixties circulation fell sharply. As the movement gathered momentum, the black press became lost in the sea of voices demanding the same thing. Blacks began turning to television rather



The US black press (above) are struggling, while mainstream papers, such as the Boston Globe (below), are withdrawing their Irish correspondents



than newspapers, and black journalists began moving away from the black press and into the mainstream for better-paid jobs. According to Chester Higgins, former editor of the *Pittsburgh Courier*, it was a double blow from which the black press has never recovered: "We will never be able to recapture what we had," he lamented. "We lost the ability to touch the souls of our readers. Nowadays, working in the black press is a labour of love."

Most papers still see their role as projecting positive images of the black community, and championing the cause of black Americans. At the *Washington Informer*, Carter has made a point of not covering stories that have negative content. "The notion that crime stories define news is over-used and false," she said. "We tell the other side of the story."

But while black papers seek to challenge the prevailing negative image of blacks in the mainstream press, as well as providing an outlet for stories that would not appear elsewhere, many have fallen into the rut of being driven by stories about race. They are missing out on stories and issues which, although not specifically about blacks, may be of interest to them. Some black publishers are realising they must become more relevant to the lives of black Americans if they are to survive. Many are turning to the Internet to get their views across while others are pinning their hopes on a new generation of young affluent Afro-Americans.

US papers prepare to pull out of Ireland

THE BRITISH press has long held that the American public's apparent sympathy for the Irish Nationalist cause is down to ignorance. Misty-eyed Irish-Americans know little about the conflict, and so contribute to bodies such as Noraid, the republican fund-raising body. Only now, perhaps, is that British propagandist line coming true. As 30 years of Troubles in Northern Ireland hopefully draw to a close, we shall shortly have a situation in which no US newspaper is prepared to locate a full-time correspondent in Ireland.

The *Boston Globe* is about to shut down its Dublin bureau. Kevin Cullen, widely regarded as the most astute observer of Irish affairs in the American media, is being reassigned to London and given the awesome brief of covering the whole of Europe. A sharp reminder of Ireland's bumble place in the new world disorder? Or simply backtracking by one newspaper that isn't sure how big to play Irish stories, because it isn't sure just how Irish its Irish-American readers are?

Boston, Massachusetts, is the undisputed capital of Irish-America: almost a third of the city's population claim Hibernian ancestry. This is where the Kennedy clan hails from. Boston's mayor, Ray Flynn, is a leading member of the powerful lobby that persuaded President Clinton to tackle the Troubles.

Matt Storr, editor of the *Boston Globe*, says too much can be read into the decision to ditch the Dublin bureau: "It's really just a matter of economics," he said. "We are primarily a regional newspaper, with just six foreign bureaux. We're proud of the coverage we've given to Ireland in what's been a fascinating year. But I wouldn't expect our interest in Ireland in the years going forward to be quite so intense. I think we can keep pretty good tabs on it from London."

Rather curious, when you consider that 44 per cent of Americans claim Irish ancestry, and Ireland's "Celtic tiger" economy has been largely created by US hi-tech multinationals seeking a tax haven.

One leading Dublin economist has even talked of the "American tiger". Cullen still enthuses about the myriad Irish-American connections, which extend well beyond the sentimental matter of ancestry: "Ireland is the only international story that is local in Boston," he says, pointing out that fully half of the US companies operating in Ireland have New England roots. "Look at cultural links, look at *Angela's Ashes* and *Riverdance*. Senator George Mitchell is a [Boston] Red Sox fan." America's most prestigious daily, *The New York Times*, has no shortage of resources and claims to give its readers "All the News That's Fit to Print". Yet it fits in news about Ireland on a fairly sporadic basis, and does not maintain a full-time correspondent in Dublin.

It depends for coverage on James Clarity, a "superstringer" veteran correspondent who worked in a number of the world's hot spots for 31 years before returning to the

Times's foreign desk in Manhattan. He took up residence in the Irish capital seven years ago, but he's not a full-time correspondent.

When the Troubles were at their height, *The New York Times* was providing its readers with more unbiased reporting of Northern Ireland than most British newspapers. Its correspondent, Jo Thomas, was initially sent to Northern Ireland in 1984, via London, and soon became fascinated and appalled by what became known as the "Stalker Affair" – the shoot-to-kill policy that left three men dead in Co Armagh, and ultimately ended the career of John Stalker, Deputy Chief Constable of the Manchester police. Thomas's persistent digging rapidly incurred the wrath of British officials, who decided to freeze her out on the information front.

But the American press coverage of the Troubles has always been more complex than simply following an anti-Brit, pro-Nationalist line.

The *Boston Globe*'s Cullen took a lot of stick early on from republican sympathisers at home, for refusing to pander to their prejudices and preconceived notions about the "armed struggle" in the severed six counties. He was even accused of being a British intelligence agent by what he refers to as "Noraid nuts".

Cullen is one of the most level-headed commentators on Northern Ireland on either side of the

At the height of the Troubles, the New York Times offered more unbiased coverage than most British newspapers

Atlantic. And he has consistently refused to invoke apocalyptic clichés every time tensions flare.

He is always careful to remind his readers that Northern Ireland is not, and never will be, another Bosnia. He has described the Troubles as a "chorographed conflict" that is coming to a close. "The war" has been over for four years," he says. "It's a bit like the end of the Vietnam war – the republican leadership are looking for an honourable exit." More interested in real people than politicians ("I am sick to death of writing about Ian Paisley"), Cullen has found himself becoming fascinated by "seismic social changes" in southern Ireland that are making the Republic, in his opinion, "more and more a mini-America".

Yet, if American newspaper readers were at one time better informed about Ireland during the "war" than their British counterparts, it seems likely that, now there is an exodus of US pressmen from the country, they will be left in misty-eyed ignorance about a rapidly modernising nation.

Feedback to rbrown@indigo.ie

IF I RULED THE AIRWAVES MALCOLM GERRIE, MANAGING DIRECTOR, INITIAL

Time to give tradition a dose of Thursday night fever

IF I ruled the airwaves, I would put a grenade under the traditional pattern of where and why programmes are broadcast. Today's form of scheduling has been with us since the days of John Logie Baird and is out of kilter with real people. What Michael Jackson did with BBC2 was inspired, putting in lovely little surprises which hit you right between the eyes, bunched comedy on Friday nights and creating genuine television events at a weekend. My schedule is designed for a Thursday night, and my first choice, in the "weekend starts here" slot, would be *Ready Steady Go!* It happened as pop itself was going through its adolescence, reflected in all its pimply, acned glory on the screen – excepting Keith Forgyce, a very British character who presented in a suit and tie. Forgyce was, if you like, a forerunner to Jools Holland on

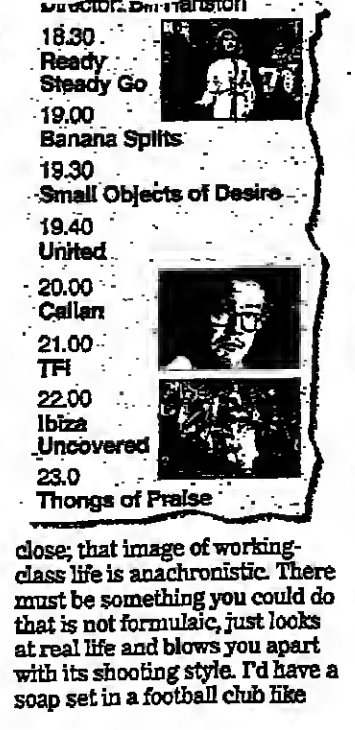
The Tube, a counterpoint to what was considered outrageous music. Kathy McGowan was also the role model for Paula Yates). She added a dimension to television which, at the time, was pretty much unheard of, because most female presenters were very Oxbridge. Yet, here was this stunning brunette, part of the Chelsea set, who was allowed to interview the good, the great, the bad and the ugly. *Ready Steady Go!* showcased new bands and, for the first time, put black music in all its glory on prime time. The fact that you could go from Dusty Springfield singing among the crowd straight to The Beatles and Otis Redding doing "Try A Little Tenderness" and finish with James Brown doing "This Is A Man's World" was extraordinary. It was the inspiration for *The Tube* – to create that kind of event in the studio and put two fingers up to critics who say that

music never works on television. I'd follow that with a "what the hell is that?" programme – *Banana Splits*. This was an inspired, mould-breaking series, dressed up as a children's show, but with much darker things going on. It featured four bums in furry suits who wore cool shades, a hyperactive *Rainbow* meets *The Monkees*; Fleegle, Bingo, Drooper and Snooky were as fast as their names. But above and beyond all this wacky content was the theme tune – a brilliant piece of bubblegum banality. Then, a surprise – something along the lines of BBC2's *Small Objects Of Desire*, which looked at the lampoon, the cigar and Doc Martens. That could be updated for the late Nineties, and a few more radical objects chosen. Then I'd have a new soap. It certainly wouldn't come from London – so much TV is London-biased – or be set in a street or a

Newcastle or Manchester United, and call it *United*. My next choice is *Callan*, with Edward Woodward. I was a mad James Bond fan, but this was the antithesis of that world – the seedy underbelly of the British secret service, cheap, sordid and rather nasty, but you really had empathy for this character in the middle of it all. He wasn't a big man, not a John Wayne or a Connery – but there was a certain violence always simmering under the surface. It reminds me of early Peckinpah or Tarantino – Callan would think nothing of just shooting a guy point blank in the head, which for the time was extraordinary. Even the opening title sequence was great: just a lightbulb swinging in a seedy flat with John Barry-type music, ending with a single gunshot exploding the bulb. It was cheap – you could see the cardboard walls, and there

was hardly any location footage – but the scripts were beautifully written and the acting superb. My first post-watershed show is one I've made up, because it's a blend of programmes. I've called it *TFT Evans*. In Chris Evans British broadcasting has an extraordinary force and talent. He's not only an inspired presenter but also an instinctive producer. Everyone said he would only last five minutes, that he was another Simon Dee, but he's still there, and a more potent force than ever. As yet, though, I feel he hasn't really stretched his wings. So the first thing I would do is commission Chris to come up with something new – just let him loose in an hour of prime time and make it live. I don't think it would be boring! It's important to give Chris his head, as I did when he hosted *The Brits* – and it paid off. You try and handcuff him at your peril.

At 11pm, I'd put on *Ibiza Uncovered*, which was first broadcast on Sky. I thought it was an inspired piece of programme-making, combining a lot of different elements – travel, music, leisure and sex. It has spawned a host of less impressive imitators as well as a hit album. I just loved the posse of nurses, who notched up points every time one of them got laid, and the two lesbians trying to set up a bar called *Monroe's*. Classic stuff. And to follow, as there are an estimated 2 million young people from this country who are heading to Ibiza in the summer months, I'd go live from one of the major clubs there, such as *Manumission*. Being the last programme, it could be open-ended. And I'd have Boy George host that – he's a great television personality, as well as one of the hottest DJs around. Working title: *Thongs of Praise*.



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Marketing Researcher

NEW FILMS

LE BOSSU (15)

Director: Philippe de Broca
Sumptuous swashbucklers are fast becoming French cinema's stock-in-trade. This effort doesn't break much new ground, but is acted and shot with such magnificent braggadocio that its lack of originality is over a problem.
Fabrice Lucchini makes a supremely oleaginous villain. Vincent Perez leaps higher and thicker like a latter-day Douglas Fairbanks, while Daniel Auteuil's character seems like a cross between Cyrano and D'Artagnan. He tends the abandoned young baby who soon blossoms into the beautiful Aurélie (Marie Gillain). Who cares about the clichés when the storytelling is so vivid?
Curzon Mayfair, Richmond Filmhouse

GADJO DILO (15)

Director: Tony Gatlif
Stephane (Romain Duris), a young Parisian, tramps down a long, icy road, somewhere in rural Romania, on a quest for Nora Luca, the gypsy singer whose music he discovered through his father. After a drunken night with Isidor, an old man he meets crying and cursing in the snow, Stephane learns gradually about the habits, superstitions and, above all, the music of his gypsy hosts. There is a warmth and humour to the storytelling, and an integrity that pushes this film way beyond being mere sentimental travelogue.
Renoir

THE LIFE OF STUFF (U)

Director: Simon Dornick
A profoundly depressing Glasgow gangland drama. Performances and direction are pitched at such an overwrought level from the very first scene that the film doesn't have anywhere to go. The claustrophobic settings (almost the entire story takes place in a deserted warehouse) don't help. Nor does the melodramatic sub-John Barry music. Ewen Bremner and Gina McKee do their best as two hostages trapped in the basement, but the shock tactics (explosions, torture, ferocious hoodlating) do little but leave you numb.
NFT

METROLAND (18)

Director: Philip Saville
In this suburban morality tale, Chris (Christian Bale) is festering somewhere in the commuter belt, playing happy families, when his old friend Tony (Lee Ross) thinks that he ought to be out having fun. Most of the film is set in the 1970s, but the period is not reconstructed with any great verve. There is plenty that's likeable - the late-1960s Paris interlude, in which Chris acts up as a Left Bank boulevardier, is very endearing. But back on home soil, the storytelling is less assured, and on the whole, Saville shows a dispiriting lack of ambition. Metro, Odeon Kensington, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

THE X-FILES (15)

Director: Rob Bowman
Fans of the X-Files television series have been heard to complain recently that the show's misanthropic approach to conspiracy theories had taken some of the novelty and lustre out of the subject. In which case, The X-Files as it appears on film isn't likely to offer any compensation. But you can't deny that it looks splendid on the big screen: the director Rob Bowman and his director of photography, Ward Russell, have concocted some awe-inspiring compositions. David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson reprise their roles as FBI agents Mulder and Scully respectively, and the screenplay (by the series' creator Chris Carter) gives them a meaty conundrum to chew on, involving a shady secret government, a deadly virus from outer space and the world's oldest living organism. Duchovny and Anderson are most engaging through little dialogue and even less facial movement they manage to convey great tenderness. ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

Geoffrey McNabb and Ryan Gilbey

GENERAL RELEASE

THE ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD (U)
A perfect antidote to the bombast of Armageddon can be found in Michael Curtiz's merry and inventive romp, one of the greatest swashbucklers ever made.
Rio Cinema

ARMAGEDDON (12)
This deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a meaty action adventure and a global disaster movie in which a meteor is on a collision course with Earth.
ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

THE AVENGERS (12)
Ralph Fiennes does the bowler hat and wields the cane as Steed, Uma Thurman pours herself into a catsuit as Emma Peel, while Sean Connery sashays around in a kilt as August De Winter, who plans to take over the world by controlling the weather.
ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE (U)
Feature-length exploits for the big, jolly dinosaur. Ideal for the more understanding pre-school viewer, an endurance test for adults.
UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE CASTLE (15)
When his family home is threatened with demolition to make way for an airport, truck driver Darryl Kerrigan (Michael Caine) decides to fight back and stand up for his rights.
Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Swiss Cottage

THE DAYTRIPPERS (15)
Worried that her husband (Stanley Tucci) may be having an affair, Eliza (Hope Davis) confides in her parents, only to find that the whole family wants to accompany her to Manhattan to confront him.
Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

DR DOLITTLE (PG)
The thought of Eddie Murphy performing within the restrictions of a PG film may not be a promising one, but Dr Dolittle shows that his talents are surprisingly pliable.
Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

EVE'S BAYOU (15)
Rites-of-passage drama set in Louisiana locations that have been devalued by too many Southern Comfort ads. Despite some intuitive observations, this feels, for the most part, like reheated Fried Green Tomatoes.
Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Mezzanine, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero

FIRELIGHT (15)
Starchy 19th-century melodrama starring Sophie Marceau as a Swiss governess who bears a child for the wealthy aristocrat Stephen Dillane, then devotes the rest of her life to finding the girl.
Clapham Picture House, Curzon Minima, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Haymarket

GANG RELATED (15)
A new thriller which gives a few welcome twists to the formulaic routine of drive-by shootings and jive-talking homeboys.
Virgin Trocadero

THE GINGERBREAD MAN (15)
The routine level of so much in The Gingerbread Man dissipates, but odd fragments remind you that

here we have a great director (Robert Altman) marking time. Starring Kenneth Branagh, Robert Downey Jr, Tom Berenger.
ABC Swiss Centre

GODZILLA (PG)
The team that cooked up Independence Day is generally very adept at constructing enjoyable adventures. Unfortunately, in this case, their light touch has deserted them. Starring Matthew Broderick, Jean Reno and Maria Pichlo.
Empire Leicester

GREASE (20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION) (PG)
Twentieth-anniversary reissue of the nostalgic American high-school musical starring John Travolta as the slick haired heart-breaker.
Plaza, Virgin Trocadero

HANA-BI (18)
Violent yet elegant portrait of a brutal Japanese policeman pushed over the edge by his traumatic personal life.
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Metro

THE LITTLE MERMAID (U)
After years of churning out sub-standard animated features, this sprightly, re-released adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's story begins a string hits for the newly rejuvenated Disney Studios.
Pleasantly jazzy holiday fare.
Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Warner Village

LOST IN SPACE (PG)
See The Independent Recommends, above.
ABC Tottenham Court Road, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND (15)
A warm, subtle comedy starring John Hurt as a reclusive widower who becomes obsessed with a young film actor Jason Priestley.
ABC Piccadilly, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green

THE MAGIC SWORD: QUEST FOR CAMELOT (U)
The first full-length product of Warner's new animation division, this Arthurian adventure looks - and courtesy of the inevitable Céline Dion, sounds - even cheesier than the average Disney effort. But beneath the surface there's an edge of genuine weirdness that will keep parents entertained, if it doesn't frighten the children out of their wits.
UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MAJORETTES IN SPACE: FIVE GAY TALES FROM FRANCE (18)
The best reason for seeing this is François Ozon's Summer Dress and A Little Death. You may also be delighted by the film from which the collection takes its name.
ICA Cinema

PSYCHO (15)
I envy anyone who will get their first taste of Psycho with this new print. Imagine seeing the Bates Motel for the very first time.
Chelsea Cinema

THE THIEF (15)
See The Independent Recommends, above.
ABC Swiss Centre

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)
A shamelessly dumb but very winning comedy about a hopelessly romantic wedding singer (Saturday Night Live's Adam Sandler) who falls in love with a waitress (Drew Barrymore), only to find that she's engaged to someone else.
Odeon Mezzanine, Warner Village West End

ZERO EFFECT (15)
Thriller starring Bill Pullman as Daryl Zero, the world's greatest private investigator, a drop-out who subsists on tuna fish and tap amphetamines, pulling on reserves of wit and ingenuity when the time comes to crack a new case.
Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS



Film Ryan Gilbey

EASILY THE best reason to see *Lost in Space* (left) is Norman Garwood's dazzling production design. Every surface seems spongy; tabletops appear soft enough to sink your fingers into. Rubber - and rubber effect - is very big in the future: the plates of the body armour look as if they would protect you from sexually transmitted diseases but not much else. And it is a nice gag, too, that a film about a man (William Hurt) struggling to be tactile with his own children should have sets

and costumes that you want to reach out and squeeze.
On general release
The Thief is the story of a six-year-old boy whose mother falls for a con-man posing as a soldier in 1982 Russia. What makes the picture worth seeing is the acting. The young Misha Philipchuk is unusual among child actors - his performance grows and matures palpably as the picture progresses.
On selected release

Theatre Dominic Cavendish

FOR THEIR next trick, Hamish McCall and Sean Foley take *The Night Size*, have taken on Brecht's satire about a drunken landowner and his disgruntled chauffeur, *Mr Puntila and His Man Matti* (below). The result is not only

but a brain-flicking teaser about the nature of man. No really. *Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh* (0131-228 1404) 11am
Ayleth Theatre company have dug up a little-known text by Samuel Beckett, *All Strange Away*, and made it work on stage. A clinical, yet lyrical monologue about imagination and absence, it receives a faultless performance from Mark Stuart Currie.
Pleasance, Edinburgh (0131-556 6550) 1pm

Pop Tim Perry

GIVEN THAT she's not been on a UK tour for almost three years now, this has been a busy week for PJ Harvey (right). At the weekend, Pally and folks played V8, while tonight she's headlining at this Flux Festival show. A new album is on its way soon, so there should be lots of new material and quite possibly another dramatic image change.
Jaffa Cafe, Edinburgh (0131-226 5138) 8pm
Another outfit who play far too rarely are Cincinnati's Afghan Whigs, and they promise two intimate shows before appearing at Reading 98 this weekend. As well as those cultured but abrasive favourites from their back catalogue, they'll be previewing material from their forthcoming album, 1965. Instead of a support band there will be a short newsreel film entitled '1965', put together by singer Greg Dulli, while Pork Recordings DJs set the mood at Reading and a 'very special DJ' will hit the decks in London.
Alleycat, Reading (0118-956 1116) tonight; Subterania, London W10 (0131-960 4590) tomorrow



Classical Duncan Hadfield

MAYBE IN terms of value for money, a concert comprising one single 65-minute work doesn't sound like an obvious major choice - but such considerations don't apply when the work is Beethoven's mighty 9th Symphony (Choral). The performers are none other than the Berlin Philharmonic

Orchestra conducted by Claudio Abbado, and a glittering quartet of vocal soloists including bass-baritone Bryn Terfel (below).
Usher Hall, Edinburgh (0131-226 5138) 8pm
Dynamic young virtuoso pianist Evgeny Kissin arrives at the Proms today to tackle a concerto which might be nicknamed 'The Sledgehammer', owing to the brute force it requires - Prokofiev's No 2. Perhaps Kissin's touch will be subtler than the norm. He joins Russian compatriots the St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Yury Temirkanov.
Royal Albert Hall, London SW7 (0171-533 8212) 7.30pm



CINEMA
WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0171-935 7772) @ Baker Street
The Avengers 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm The X-Files 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm
ABC PANTON STREET (0171-930 0631) @ Piccadilly
Circus As Good As It Gets 2pm, 5pm, 8pm The Big Lebowski 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Jackie Brown 1.30pm, 4.40pm, 7.45pm Live Flesh 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm
ABC PICCADILLY (0171-437 3561) @ Piccadilly
Circus Leticia 2.05pm, 5.05pm, 8pm Love And Death On Long Island 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0171-836 6279) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road
Hana-Bi 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm The X-Files 12.25pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm
ABC SWISS CENTRE (0171-439 4470) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly
Circus Deconstructing Harry 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm The Gingerbread Man 1.25pm, 6.25pm La Grande Illusion 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Kurt & Courtney 3.55pm, 8.50pm

ABC TOTENHAM COURT ROAD (0171-636 6148) @ Tottenham Court Road
Armageddon 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9.05pm The Avengers 12.25pm, 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.05pm, 9.10pm Lost In Space 12.45pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm
BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-382 7000) @ Moorgate/Barbican
The Avengers 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Girl Can't Help It 8.45pm Rock Around The Clock 6.45pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square
Psycho 4.40pm, 4pm, 6.30pm
CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 2242) @ Clapham Common
Armageddon 3.30pm, 9pm The Avengers 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Firelight 1.15pm, 6.30pm The X-Files 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-366 1723) @ Green Park
Dr Dolittle 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm
ELPHANT & CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle
Armageddon 1.30pm, 4.50pm, 8pm The Avengers 7pm, 9pm Dr Dolittle 1.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm The X-Files 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.25pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0171-437 1234) @ Leicester Square
The Castle 3.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm, 8.40pm
GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill
Gate Eve's Bayou 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-9070718) @ Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith
Armageddon 1.40pm, 4.30pm, 8pm The Avengers 12.40pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pm Dr Dolittle 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm Lost In Space 8.30pm The X-Files 12.15pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm

ICA CINEMA (0171-930 3647) @ Charing Cross
Majorities In Space: Five Gay Tales From France 5pm, 7pm, 9pm
METRO (0171-437 0757) @ Piccadilly
Circus/Lecturer Square Hana-Bi 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Metroland 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

CURZON MINIMA (0171-369 1723) @ Knightsbridge
Firelight 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm
NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill
Gate Armageddon 1.45pm, 4.45pm, 8pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (0181-315 4229) @ Camden Town
Armageddon 1.55pm, 5.10pm, 11.10pm, 2.20pm Lost In Space 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm, 8.45pm The Daytrippers 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.25pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (0181-315 4214) @ High Street
Kensington Armageddon 1.45pm, 5.10pm, 8.35pm The Avengers 12.45pm, 3pm, 5.15pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm The Daytrippers 7.20pm, 9.20pm Dr Dolittle 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.35pm, 7.20pm, 9.35pm The Little Mermaid 11.40am Lost In Space 1.30pm, 4.25pm, 7pm, 9.35pm The X-Files 12.45pm, 3.40pm, 6.35pm, 9.30pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (0181-315 4215) @ Leicester Square
Armageddon 2.10pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0181-315 4216) @ Marble Arch
Armageddon 1.35pm, 5.05pm, 8.30pm The Avengers 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm Dr Dolittle 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm Godzilla 8.15pm The X-Files 12.25pm, 2.35pm, 4.45pm, 6.5pm, 9.10pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (0181-315 4215) @ Leicester Square
Eve's Bayou 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm The Object Of My Affection 1.35pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm Six Days Seven Nights 1.55pm, 4pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Wedding Singer 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (0181-315 4220) @ Swiss Cottage
Armageddon 1.45pm, 5pm, 8pm The Avengers 1.40pm, 3.40pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pm The Big Lebowski 1.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm The Castle 4.45pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Dr Dolittle 12.55pm, 6.15pm Godzilla 1.30pm The Little Mermaid 1pm Lost In Space 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.35pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) @ Leicester Square
Lost In Space 12noon, 2.20pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm The X-Files 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm

PLAZA (0171-437 1234) @ Piccadilly
Circus Dr Dolittle 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 6.50pm, 9pm Eve's Bayou 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Sliding Doors 1pm, 3.20pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm

RENOIR (0171-837 9402) @ Russell Square
Dance Of The Wind 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.55pm, 6.45pm, 8.50pm, 10.10pm, 12.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8pm

RISQ CINEMA (0171-254 6677) @ Dalston Kingsland
The Adventures Of Robin Hood 11.30am Dr Dolittle 6.30pm, 8.45pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-737 2121/733 2229) @ Brixton
Anastasia 10.30am Armageddon 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.35pm The Daytrippers 5.30pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm Dr Dolittle 12.25pm, 2.25pm, 4.45pm, 6.40pm Eve's Bayou 2.05pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm Pests In The Pocket 3.10pm Lost In Space 8.50pm Moushumi 10.30am The X-Files 11.15am, 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-486 0036) @ Baker Street
Armageddon 2.25pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm The Avengers 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) @ Angel/Highway
Jefferson The Daytrippers 3.05pm, 7.05pm Love And Death On Long Island 5.05pm, 9.05pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366) @ Belisle Park
Europa 3pm A Prize Above Rubies 8.40pm The Truce 6.10pm

UCI WHITELEYS (0171-792 3322) @ Bayswater
Armageddon 11am, 12pm, 2.10pm, 4.45pm, 5.30pm, 8pm, 8.50pm The Avengers 11.45am, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Barney's Great Adventure 11.20am Armageddon 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.40pm The Little Mermaid 12noon, 6.10pm The Little Mermaid 12.05pm Lost In Space 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm, 8.40pm Barney's Great Adventure 12.45pm Dr Dolittle 12.50pm, 2.55pm, 4.55pm, 6.55pm, 8.55pm Lost In Space 1.35pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm The X-Files 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm

BECKENHAM (0870-9070710) @ Sloane Square
Armageddon 2pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm Barney's Great Adventure 1.10pm, 4.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.15pm Sliding Doors 6.30pm The X-Files 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm Zero Effect 3pm, 9pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD (0870-9070711) @ South Kensington
Armageddon 1.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm The Avengers 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm The Big Lebowski 2pm, 6pm, 8.45pm The Daytrippers 1.40pm, 3.55pm, 7pm, 9.40pm Metroland 2.40pm, 5.10pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm The X-Files 1.10pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET (0870-9070712) @ Piccadilly Circus
The Daytrippers 2.30pm Metroland 2pm Zero Effect 2.15pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-9070716) @ Piccadilly Circus
The Avengers 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm Barney's Great Adventure 1.30pm City Of Angels 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm, 10.40pm, 12.50pm, 3pm, 5.10pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm Eve's Bayou 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Gang Related 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm, 10.40pm, 12.50pm, 3pm, 5.10pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.10pm Six Days, Seven Nights 3.30pm, 8.50pm The X-Files 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4347) @ Leicester Square
Armageddon 1.40pm, 4.55pm, 8.10pm The Avengers 3.40pm, 9.05pm Dr Dolittle 12.05pm, 2.45pm, 4.50pm, 6.55pm, 9pm The Little Mermaid 11.40am Lost In Space 12.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 8.45pm The X-Files 12.15pm, 1.50am, 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm

SAFFARI (0181-688 3422) @ BR: West Croydon
Armageddon 4pm, 7.15pm Dr Se 7.55pm Dr Dolittle 12.10pm, 1.50pm, 3.30pm, 5.10pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.20pm, 2pm The X-Files 12noon, 3.20pm, 5pm, 8pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) @ BR: East Croydon
Armageddon 10.50am, 11.40am, 2pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm, 9.20pm The Avengers 12.10pm, 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.10pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm Barney's Great Adventure 10.35am, 12.30pm Dr Dolittle 10.15am, 12.20pm, 2.45pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm The Little Mermaid 10.10am, 2.10pm, 4.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.10pm, 4.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm, 12.35pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9pm

DAKENHAM (0181-592 2020) @ Dagenham Heathway
Armageddon 11.30am, 12noon, 2.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm, 9pm The Avengers 11am, 1pm, 3.10pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.20pm Barney's Great Adventure 10.40am, 12.20pm, 2pm Dr Dolittle 11am, 12.20pm, 2.40pm, 5pm, 7.10pm Eve's Bayou 1.55pm, 8.50pm Godzilla 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.40pm The Little Mermaid 10.30am, 2.20pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.10pm, 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 5.20pm The X-Files 10.30am, 11am, 1pm, 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm, 9.50pm

EALING (0181-507 8444) @ Barking
Armageddon 1.40pm, 4.50pm, 1.55pm The Avengers 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 6.50pm, 9pm Barney's Great Adventure 12.50pm Dr Dolittle 12.50pm, 2.55pm, 4.55pm, 6.55pm, 8.55pm Lost In Space 1.35pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm The X-Files 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm

BECKENHAM (0870-9020412) @ BR: Beckenham Junction
Armageddon 1.40pm, 4.50pm, 8.15pm The Avengers 7pm, 9.15pm Barney's Great Adventure 12.10pm Dr Dolittle 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm, 8.40pm The X-Files 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

BEXLEYHEATH (0181-303 1550) @ BR: Bexleyheath
Armageddon 10.45am, 11.45am, 1.50pm, 2.50pm, 5pm, 6pm, 8.30pm, 9.10pm The Avengers 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.15pm Barney's Great Adventure 10.40am, 12.20pm Dr Dolittle 10.40am, 12noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3.20pm, 4pm, 5.20pm, 6pm, 8.20pm, 9

TUESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.5-98.8MHz FM)
5.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball
9.00 Simon Mayo. 11.30 Radio 1
Roadshow: Dave Pearce moves
the roadshow to Plymouth where
he is joined by Five and Hinda
Vicks. 12.30 Newsbeat. 12.45 Jo
Ney. 3.00 Clive Warren. 6.30
Steve Lamacq - The Evening
Session. 8.30 Digital Update.
8.40 John Peel. 10.30 Mary Anne
Hobbs. 12.00 The Breezeblock.
2.00 Charlie Jordan: Including
Radio 1's Most Wanted of the day.
4.00 - 6.30 Chris Moyles.

RADIO 2
(88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Sarah
Kennedy. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00
Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart.
5.05 John Dunn. 7.00 Carl Davis
Classics. 8.00 Nigel Ogden. 9.00
Wembley - Theatre of Dreams: Ed
Stewart takes a look back at some
of the famous music and sporting
events that have taken place at
Wembley Stadium in its 75 years.
10.00 Kennedy and the Violets.
See Pick of the Day. 10.30
Richard Allinson. 12.05 Steve Mad-
den. 3.00 - 4.00 Annie Othen.

RADIO 3
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Proms Artist of the Week.
11.00 Edinburgh International
Festival. 98.
11.50 Colin Bell invites.
12.30 Concert, part 2.
1.00 Proms Composer of the
Week: Jean Sibelius.
2.00 BBC Proms 98. (R)
4.00 Choral Voices.
4.45 Music Machine. (R)
5.00 In Tune.
7.30 BBC Proms 98. Russian mu-
sic of glitter and glamour is heard
at the Royal Albert Hall tonight in
the second concert of the visiting
St Petersburg Philharmonic, with
pianist Yevgeni Kissin playing
Prokofiev's demanding concerto.
Two ever-popular showpieces
complete the programme, with
Ravel adding extra colour to the
mix with his brilliant orchestration.
Yevgeni Kissin (piano), St Peters-
burg Philharmonic/Yuri Temirkanov.

PICK OF THE DAY

THE ACTIVITIES of the Wildlife
Recording Society are the
fascinating focus of A Song
amidst the Silence (11am R4).
This group of obsessives spend
their spare time trying to record
birdsong in pure form, without
noise pollution - in this country,
an almost impossible mission.
The programme follows them on
an expedition to the Outer
Hebrides. Ironically, the whole

thing is polluted by an obtrusive
musical score. Nigel Kennedy
(right) is also concerned with
pure noise: he released an album
with "Just Listen" plastered across
the front of it. In Kennedy and
the Violin (10pm R2), he
complains too much about his
public image and restrictive
musical upbringing, but he plays
beautifully enough to be forgiven.
ROBERT HANKS



Rimsky-Korsakov: Suite 'The
Golden Cockerel'. Prokofiev: Piano
Concerto No 2.
8.40 Poets on Painting. An
anthology of poems about painting
read by Andrew Hilton and Sally
Cookson.
9.00 Concert, part 2. Mussorgsky,
orch Ravel: Pictures at an Exhibition.
10.00 Postscript. Five
programmes this week in which
Adrian Mitchell looks at the poems
and songs of Bertolt Brecht. The
readers include Maria Friedman
and Harold Pinter. 2: 'Germany: a
Bad Time for Poetry'. Brecht's
poetry under the Nazis. (R)
10.20 Schumann from America.
Six pieces from Schumann's
Album for the Young orchestrated
by Theodor Adorno. Frankfurt
Opera Orchestra/Gary Bertini.
10.45 Brecht and Company.
Bertolt Brecht, author of 'The
Threepenny Opera', 'Mother
Courage' and 'Galileo', was born
100 years ago. He changed the
face of 20th-century drama with
his revolutionary ideas, but the
ending of the Cold War and the
economic boom of the 1980s have
seen his influence decline. Yet
there have been many critically ac-
claimed productions of his plays in
recent years. Michael Billington
investigates Brecht's legacy and
his importance in theatre today,
with David Hars, Janet Suzman,
Eric Bentley and Simon McBurney.
11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Proms Composer of the
Week: Sargel Rachmaninov. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.8MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 On the Ropes.
9.45 Speak after the Beep. (R)
10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS: A Song amidst the
Silence. See Pick of the Day.
11.30 Grease Monkeys.
12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.
12.57 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 Points of Law.
2.00 NEWS: The Archers.
2.45 Afternoon Play: The Hydro.
3.00 NEWS: The Exchange (OTV)
5.00 444.
5.30 Kit and the Widow Wander
about the Edinburgh Festival.
6.45 Secret of the Furze.
7.00 NEWS: A Good Read.
7.40 Shop Talk.
9.00 PM.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 The Nuisance.
7.00 NEWS: The Archers.
7.45 Front Row in Edinburgh. Live
from the cabaret bar at the Pleas-
ance, Mark Lawson catches up
with the debates, controversies,
hits and misses at this year's
Edinburgh Festival and Fringe.
7.45 Dear Jayna Brown. 'Chem-
istry' by Maggie Allen. Young
Jayna's mission to educate a naive
young soldier has terrible conse-
quences. With Ali Balcan, Stella
Gonet and Jonathan Firth. Direc-
tor Celia da Silva (2/5).
8.00 NEWS: Face the Facts. John
Waite and his team of investigators
go on the trail of listeners' com-

plaints and look at wider issues af-
fecting the lives of ordinary people.
8.40 In Touch. Peter White with
news for visually impaired people.
9.00 NEWS: Patient Progress.
Intelligent Therapies. In the second
of four programmes, Sue Armstrong
explores cutting-edge developments
in the management and treatment
of cancer.
9.30 On the Ropes. John
Humphrys talks to six successful
people who have weathered storms
in their careers. 4: Nik Powell. From
'Absolute Beginners' to 'The Crying
Game', the producer who turned
Palace Pictures into Britain's most
successful film company - until the
money ran out.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Like Water
for Chocolate. By Laura Esquivel,
bridged by Pat McLoughlin, read
by Mia Soteriou (7/10). (R)
11.00 Goodness Gracious Me.
More fun from the award-winning
Asian sketch show. Starring
Sanjeev Bhaskar, Kulvinder Ghar,
Mansa Syal and Nina Wadia. (R)
11.30 Talking Pictures.
12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Book: Rolling
Thunder Logbook.
12.45 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
1.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW
(198kHz)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

WOODY ALLEN's character in
Stardust Memories berates fans
who say they prefer his early,
funny films. The implication is
that he would rather make more
serious movies. But he shouldn't
write off the earlier work, as
films don't come much funnier
than Love and Death (6pm Sky
Movies Gold), his gag-a-minute
pastiche of Tolstoy's War and
Peace. The plot - for what it's
worth - centres on Boris (Allen),
a wannabe killer in 19th-century

Russia, who keeps messing up
his attempts at assassinating
Napoleon. As his beloved, Diane
Keaton demonstrates wonderful
comic timing. Has there ever
been a greater all-round athlete
than Daley Thompson (right),
profiled in SportsKicks (11pm Sky
Sports 3)? Although known as a
prankster, he was a deadly
serious competitor who gained
Olympic gold in the gruelling 10-
event discipline, the decathlon.
JAMES RAMPTON



(54883). 6.30 The Bill (54884/7). 9.00
The Bill (54887/9). 9.30 Bargain
Hunt (54890/1). 10.30 The Bill (54894/1).
11.00 The Bill (54892/3). 11.30 Neighbours
(54893/4). 12.25 EastEnders (54895/6).
1.00 All Creatures Great and Small
(54897/8). 2.00 The Bill (54899/10). 2.25
The Bill (54901/2). 3.25 The Bill (54903/4).
3.55 Bargain Hunt (54905/6). 4.55 East-
Enders (54907/8). 5.30 Home to Roost
(54909/10). 6.00 All Creatures Great and
Small (54911/12). 7.00 The Comedy Alterna-
tive: Don't Walk Up (54913/14). 7.45 The
Comedy Alternative: Dad's Army (54915/16).
8.20 The Comedy Alternative: Some
Mothers Do (54917/18). 9.00 The Bill
(54919/20). 9.30 The Bill (54921/22). 10.00
The Bill (54923/24). 10.30 The Bill (54925/26).
11.00 The Bill (54927/28). 11.30 The Bill
(54929/30). 12.00 The Bill (54931/32).
12.25 100 Years of Horror (54933/34).
2.25 - 2.50 Shopping (54935/36).

LIVING
6.00 Tiny Living (50578/79). 9.00 Potatoes
(50580/81). 9.30 Jerry Springer (50582/83).
10.40 Young and the Restless (50584/85).
11.30 Brookside (50586/87). 12.00 Jimmy's
Surrey (50588/89). 1.45 The Footballer's
Footfall Show (50590/91). 2.45 Sky Sports
Centre (50592/93). 3.00 Close.

SKY SPORTS 3
12.00 World Wrestling (50594/95). 1.00
Fish TV - Tony Dean Outdoors (50596/97).
1.30 Fish TV (50598/99). 2.00 Sky Sports
Classic: Cricket - 1938 Benson and Hedges
Cup Semi-Final (50600/01). 3.00 Olympic
Series: Olympic Desires (50602/03). 3.30
Rugby (50604/05). 4.00 Golf - Mastercard
Tournament (50606/07). 5.00 Wrestling
(50608/09). 6.00 Sports Centre (50610/11).
6.30 Rugby League Academy (50612/13).
7.30 Rugby (50614/15). 8.00 Major
League Baseball - Game of the Week
(50616/17). 9.00 Superstars George
Foreman v Santa Costas (50618/19). 1.00
SportsKicks. See Pick of the Day
(50620/21). 11.30 Close.

EUROSPORT
2.30 Rally (50622/23). 3.00 Offroad (50624/25).
9.00 Cycling: Tour de France (50626/27).
11.00 Football: Euroleague (50628/29). 12.30
Payline (50630/31). 1.00 Touring Car (50632/33).
1.30 Athletics (50634/35). 3.30 Football: Eu-
roleague (50636/37). 5.00 Football (50638/39).
7.00 Athletics (50640/41). 10.00 Sumo
(50642/43). 11.00 Motorcycling (50644/45).
12.00 Rally (50646/47). 12.30 Close.

UK GOLD
2.00 Crossroads (50648/49). 7.30 Neigh-
bours (50650/51). 7.55 EastEnders
(50652/53). 8.30 The Bill (50654/55). 9.00
The Bill (50656/57). 9.30 The Bill (50658/59).
10.00 The Bill (50660/61). 10.30 The Bill
(50662/63). 11.00 The Bill (50664/65).
11.30 The Bill (50666/67). 12.00 The Bill
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